Five in the field
Graduate students put their research skills to the test
Page 12

Director’s Chair
Report from the region, directorship change and welcome back
Page 2

Faculty 360°
Kudos, conferences and a new POLS associate
Page 4

Legacies left
Remembering Ladd Thomas, Daniel Unger
Page 8

For Matt Landon
An associate reflects upon a student’s life
Page 25
Inside This Issue

Director’s Chair ............................................. 2
Council News............................................. 4
In Memoriam............................................. 8
Fellowship Notes ...................... ........................... 10
Five in the Field ............................... 12–20
Student News.......................... ............................ 21
Alumni News.......................... ............................ 23
Library Notes.......................... ............................ 27
One Last Look.......................... ............................ 28

Director’s Chair
Judy Ledgerwood

Welcome to another issue of Mandala.
Let me say first that I consider myself very privileged to have served as director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies for the past five years. As of August 15, 2017, I will officially serve as the Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This is only an acting position, and my intention is to return to the Center at the end of this role. I want to thank the Center Advisory Committee and Council for their support during this term. Per a vote by Center associates, Assistant Director Eric Jones will serve as Acting Director.

Other transitions are underway. Longtime associates Grant and Chalermsee Olson are leaving CSEAS and NIU after having served in many positions over the years. Grant, most recently has been director of the Language Learning Center and Chalermsee has been the acting dean of University Libraries. They have been crucial leaders in Thai Studies at NIU and will be sorely missed. We are delighted to welcome to NIU Dr. Aarie Glas to the Department of Political Science. Glas is an International Relations specialist coming to us from the University of Toronto who does research on ASEAN. We also welcome back Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music) who has been away on a 2016–17 Fulbright Fellowship in Indonesia.

We are awaiting word on the fate of U.S. Department of Education funding for the National Resource Centers, but anticipate writing a new grant this coming year. We are entering year four of a four-year cycle of funding. During this cycle, there has been a focus on collaborations with community colleges. During the past year we have worked with Waubonsee, Harper and Sauk Valley colleges on developing a study abroad program in Cambodia. Professors from these three institutions went to Cambodia in summer 2016, after which they produced new curricular materials (which you can find in our Educational Resources on the website). Follow-on public programs were conducted at Waubonsee and Sauk Valley, and Dr. Kathy Westman and Dr. Paul Edelman from these two institutions respectively returned to Cambodia this summer to work on institutional linkages and logistics. The plan is to take students on a new program in summer 2018. Two Harper Community College teachers also participated in Dr. Wang’s Experiencing the Arts in Bali field school in December 2016.

Last fall, the Center for Burma Studies hosted a very successful International Burma Studies Conference (celebrating the 30th anniversary of our sister center) and CSEAS and the Thai Studies Committee hosted the Council on Thai Studies (COTS) annual meeting. This fall COTS will meet for the first time outside the Midwest Nov. 10–11 at UCLA, co-hosted by Thailand’s Naresuan University. Work has been underway for the last year on a life history project with Karen refugees in Aurora with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation. This work will eventually result in a NIU Art Museum exhibit on display in conjunction with the next International Burma Studies Conference in fall 2020.

CSEAS associates also pursued collaborative projects with these institutions in the region:
• Chulalongkorn, Thammasat, Prince of Songkla and Chiang Mai universities in Thailand (Molnar and Thepbiriruk)
• Philippine Normal and Palawan State universities in the Philippines (Gallo-Crail)
• Xiamen University in China (Clymer, Jones and Ledgerwood)
• Yadanabon and Mandalay universities in Myanmar (Raymond, Than, Lenczewski, Wilson and Shibata)
• Royal University of Phnom Penh and the American University of Phnom Penh in Cambodia (Lenczewski and Un)
• University of Indonesia, Udayana University and Gadja Mada University in Indonesia (Molnar and Hamayotsu)
• National University of Timor Lorosae (Molnar).

We also signed new memoranda of understanding this year with the University of Indonesia, Xiamen University and Bukidnon State University (Philippines) and renewed with several others, including Makassar State University in Indonesia.

CSEAS successfully ran year two of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) in fall 2016, and the first year of a new three-year cycle of the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) in spring. The SEAYLP program marks the 10th time we have run this program. YSEALI Director Colleen Gray, associate Kheang Un and I were able to visit alumni of these two U.S. Department of State programs in SEA this past summer. They are doing amazing things! Congratulations to SEAYLP 2009 adult leader Han Kosal, who has been appointed the Vice-Governor of Kampong Cham Province in Cambodia! NIU’s International Training Office, led by associate Lina Ong, also ran year 13 of the State Department’s Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP) in spring with Anthropology Professor Emerita Susan Russell.

Last, but not least, I want to make sure that everyone knows that CSEAS launched a podcast this year: Southeast Asia Crossroads (find it on Soundcloud). So far these conversations with Southeast Asia experts and artists have drawn over 2,300 listeners in 50 countries. Many thanks to Eric Jones who has served as the coordinator and main on-mike host for these productions.

New in the House

What would the Center do without extra hands on deck? CSEAS warmly welcomes another group of graduate assistants, student workers and extra helpers for 2017–18. Political science doctoral student Azriansyah Agoes returns to Pottenger House for a fourth year, but this time as the teaching assistant for the Center’s survey course, SEAS 225, Southeast Asia Crossroads of the World. Succeeding Agoes as coordinator for the PKPI Fellows program will be incoming anthropology master’s student Sinta Febrina.

Assisting Young Southeast Asia Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Director Colleen Gray during her program for his third year will be history doctoral student Edward Byrd, along with Sarah Greer (MS art education), undergraduate student worker Kyi Zay Min (biology) and Extra Help program assistant Nancy Schuneman. Helping Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) Director Maria “Rai” Nihei during fall preparations for her spring program will be Sharjeel Siddique (MS engineering and engineering technology), along with Extra Help program assistant Jordan York (MA anthropology, 2013. Nihei and Gray will again be helping with outreach and undergraduate advising duties during their respective program’s “off” semester, this year assisted by outreach graduate assistants Rachael Skog (MA English-TESOL) and Qi Yu (MM music). CSEAS also introduces this year’s contingent of Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants (FLTAs): Arkar Kyaw (Burmese), Ken Calang (Tagalog), Duangkamon Winitkun (Thai) and Reza Maulana (Indonesian). Welcome one and all.

CSEAS welcomed its second cohort of the U.S. Department of State’s Young Southeast Asia Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) program in fall 2016. The 2017 group will arrive at NIU on Sept. 7 to study rights movements and civic engagement.
Kikue Hamayotsu (Political Science)
- Spent the month of July in Indonesia and Malaysia conducting fieldwork to complete a book manuscript, “Intolerant Islam: Democratization, Religion and Conflict in Southeast Asia”
- Attended the Southeast Asia Research Group June 1–3 at the University of Texas-Austin.
- Was invited to present “Intolerant Islam: Democratization, Religion and Conflict in Southeast Asia” April 27 at the University of Delaware
- Presented “The Malaysian Dilemma: Identity, Religion and Regime Transition” April 1 at the Empower the People Conference at the University of Michigan
- Presented “Making Religious Democracy Work: State, Islam and Religious Conflict in Indonesia” on a panel sponsored by the Indonesia and Timor-Leste Studies Committee at the March 16–19 Association of Asian Studies meeting in Toronto

Trude Jacobsen (History)
- Has been promoted to professor
- Was one of four invited speakers to a three-day Southeast Asia curriculum-development workshop for college educators March 16–18 at Middlesex Community College in Lowell, Mass. Jacobsen presented “Southeast Asia: History in Action” and “Engendering Southeast Asia”
- Made a presentation on sex trafficking in Southeast Asia, the subject of her most recent book by that title (Routledge, 2016), March 9 at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Ill.

Eric Jones (History)
- Has been appointed acting director of CSEAS
- Traveled to Xiamen University in Xiamen, China, in June to teach a one-week course on modern Southeast Asia since 1800.

Judy Ledgerwood (Anthropology)
- Has been appointed acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Traveled to Xiamen, China, in June to teach a one-week course at Xiamen University on gender in Southeast Asia.
- Gave a lecture about the Khmer Rouge period in Cambodia for “Cambodia Research and Reflections,” a special presentation at Waubonsee Community College conducted by Kathleen Westman, associate professor of sociology, who accompanied Ledgerwood on her summer 2016 study tour of Cambodia for community college educators

Wei Luo (Geography)

Andrea Molnar (Anthropology)
- Traveled to Thailand, Indonesia and Timor-Leste on Presidential Engagement Professor leave in the spring and will be on sabbatical in the fall
- Thailand: Met with Faculty of Liberal Arts at Thammasat University in Bangkok to discuss pending new memorandum of understanding. Delivered two-day workshop on publishing to Center for Conflict Studies and Cultural Diversity at Prince of Songkla University in Pattani, Thailand, in addition to a one-day workshop for lecturers and researchers from all faculties. Also met with vice presidents and deans on pending new memorandum of understanding
- Indonesia: Delivered three days of workshops on publishing in foreign academic journals at Universitas Indonesia in Depok, (Jakarta). Secured new memorandum of understanding with Udayana University in Denpasar, Bali. While there, delivered seminar on publishing in academic journals and advised on newly launched international journals
- Timor-Leste: Met with Pro-Rektor at National University of Timor Lorosae in Timor-Leste to discuss new general academic memorandum of understanding. Delivered seminar on publishing issues in foreign academic journals. Met with Peace and Conflict Studies Program to discuss collaboration with Peace Studies Program in Pattani, Thailand. Spoke with students interested in studying in the US. Met with government contacts, including delivering seminar on political security in Southeast Asia for Office of the Prime Minister. Also met with US embassy officials

Hao Phan (NIU Libraries)
- Was invited to join two other Vietnamese poets—Linh Dinh and To Thuy Yen—to read selections of his poetry April 26 at Yale University’s Poetry Night Commemorating the Fall of Saigon
- Attended collection, technical services and digitization meetings for the Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia and the Library of Congress Southeast Asian Cooperative Acquisitions Program at the March 16–19 Association of Asian Studies meeting in Toronto
- Traveled to Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in December on a two-week collections trip

Alan Potkin (CSEAS Adjunct)
- Was the keynote speaker at the April
Kudos: Catherine Raymond

Congratulations to Center for Burma Studies Director and art history professor Catherine Raymond, who was named one of two 2017 Presidential Engagement Professor this past spring. She officially received the honor April 20 at the Faculty Recognition Awards ceremony in Altgeld Hall Auditorium. Raymond, who holds a PhD in art and archaeology and in Indian and Southeast Asian studies from La Sorbonne in Paris, came to NIU in 2002 to succeed founding Center for Burma Studies director and art historian Richard Cooler.

“Raymond’s work helped create the actual normalization of [US] relations with Burma and its educational institutions,” it was noted in the award’s announcement. “In 2011, she played a central role in the return to Burma of a stolen 11th-century Buddha stone image. That triumph, along with other work to eliminate illicit trafficking in antiquities, earned Raymond and NIU the trust of Burmese leaders: the following year, Burma lifted its ban and allowed ten American universities (including NIU) to resume visits to Burmese universities. And when Burma began to allow its own scholars to visit western universities, NIU was the first institution allowed to host Burmese professors.”

The four-year award established in 2011 is given to professors who are nominated for their outreach and engagement with students, colleagues and communities outside the university. Raymond is the fifth member of the CSEAS Council to receive a PEP award; other awardees are Judy Ledgerwood (Anthropology), Kurt Thurmaier (Public Administration), Andrea Molnar (Anthropology) and Susan Russell (Anthropology Professor Emerita).

18–21 International Conference on the Status and Future of the World’s Large Rivers held in Delhi, India
- Presented his new e-book “Pangasid-Gmelina” March 16 at the Global Research Institute conference at the Royal University of Phnom Penh

Catherine Raymond (School of Art, Center for Burma Studies)
- Began preparatory work with NIU students and researchers collecting data, artifacts and oral histories of refugees living on both sides of the Thai-Burma border for a 2018–20 traveling exhibition “The Art of Surviving: Journey of Burmese Karen Refugees of Illinois.”
- Presented “Myanmar Glass Paintings” Aug. 6 at the Southeast Asia Junction in Bangkok
- Presented “Research on the Provenance of the Burmese Tradition of Reverse Glass Paintings, from Wat Chong Klang in Mae Hong Son in Former Lan Na” at the July 15–18 International Conference of Thai Studies in Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Mounted the first exhibition and symposium of reverse glass painting in Myanmar, based on three years of collaborative research with the University of Mandalay and Yadanabon University, June 20 at the University of Mandalay.
- Attended the annual Burma Studies Foundation Trustees meeting and represented CSEAS at a meeting of the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute at the March 16–19 Association of Asian Studies meeting in Toronto

Tomoyuki Shibata (Public Health)
- Traveled to Myanmar to conduct workshops on sustainable air and water quality development goals at the University of Medicine, the University of Mandalay, Yadanabon University and the University of Magway.

continued on page 6
Tharaphi Than (Foreign Languages and Literatures)
- Organized “Reimagining the Civic Role of University,” a curriculum development workshop held July 25–26 at the University of Mandalay for Burmese, Thai and Bangladeshi academics, writers and independent researchers. The workshop is part of the International Institute for Asian Studies’ four-year Humanities Across Boarders: Asia and Africa in the World initiative, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Kanjanaphonn Thepbobiruk (Foreign Languages and Literatures)
- Presented “Phibun’s Cultural Mandates and the New Thai Womanhood” at the July 15–18 International Conference of Thai Studies in Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Attended the business meeting of the Council of Teachers of Southeast Asian Languages at the March 16–19 Association of Asian Studies meeting in Toronto

Kheang Un (Political Science)
- Published “From Force to Legitimation: Rethinking Land Grabs in Cambodia,” with Alice Beban and Sokbuntheun So, in Vol. 48, No. 3 Development and Change (May 2017)
- Represented NIU Jan. 4 in signing a new memorandum of understanding with the American University of Phnom Penh
- Contributed “Cambodia Gets an Autocratic Upgrade in 2016” in the Dec. 20 East Asia Forum
- Participated as an expert in the Dec. 16-17 International Conference on Industrial Cluster at Puthisastra University in Phnom Penh

Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music)
- Returns to campus in fall after researching Indonesian children’s singing games as a 2016-17 Fulbright Scholar
  - Conducted her third Experiencing the Arts in Bali study abroad program during the winter intersession.
  - FLAS fellow Raychel Taylor, CSEAS graduate assistants Michael McSweeney and Sarah Greer were among those attending. Wang and the six music majors who were part of the group gave a 60-minute presentation at the Indonesian Arts Institute attended by 150 students and faculty members, the first such exchange between the institute and a US institution

Jim Wilson (Geography)
- Conducted workshop on health and medical geography, and an introduction to an open source geographic information system (QGIS) May 29–June 1 at Yadarbon University in Mandalay, Myanmar. Also conducted a three-day workshop on QGIS the following week at the University of Magway in Magway.

Transitions: Grant Olson, Chalermsee Olson

The Center bids farewell to longtime Center associates Grant Olson (Foreign Languages and Literatures) and Chalermsee “Ete” Olson (NIU Libraries), who are retiring from NIU Sept. 1.

Colleagues as well as spouses, Grant and Ete met in 1978 in Thailand where Grant was a Peace Corps Volunteer and Ete a trainer for new volunteers. Grant, who holds a PhD in anthropology and Southeast Asian studies from Cornell University, came to NIU in 1988 as the editor of the Center’s Southeast Asia Publications program under then-CSEAS Director Michael Aung-Thwin. In that position, Grant oversaw the publication of numerous monographs and Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies. Coordinator of the Foreign Language and Multimedia Learning Center since 1997, Grant has continued to pursue Thai studies, teaching courses, publishing articles, authoring a website on teaching Thai Buddhism, and regularly appearing as a guest lecturer for the Center’s SEAS 225 Crossroads survey course. Ete, an associate professor and associate dean of NIU Libraries, received her MA in linguistics and TESOL certificate from the University of Pittsburgh in 1976 and her MA in library and information studies from NIU in 1992. She served as NIU Libraries’ interim dean from December 2015 to June 30.

Grant and Ete have been active members of the NIU Thai Studies Committee and participants in Council on Thai Studies annual conferences. Most recently, they collaborated on an edited translation of the 2007 book A Sandy Path Near the Lake: In Search of the Illusory Khemananda by Thai Buddhist artist Kovit Khemananda. The translation was published in 2015 by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

In a retiring frame of mind: Ete and Grant Olson
Faculty Spotlight: Aarie Glas

Aarie Glas will step right into the breach this fall as the new assistant professor in Political Science, CSEAS associate and the moderator of a one-day conference, ASEAN@50: Challenges and Opportunities, to be held Sept. 18 in the Sky Room of the Holmes Student Center. A native of Canada, Aarie is an International Relations specialist who enjoys coffee, cycling and hiking in his spare time. His office is 412 Zulauf. Get to know a little more about him below:

Mandala: What drew you to international relations as a field?
I started my university education at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. There, I initially pursued a degree in ancient history – alongside a handful of political science courses. Quickly, though, I became interested in questions of how and why the international order we live in came to be, and questions regarding its stability. I took courses in European and American history, international relations, and political economy, and was struck with the variety of answers to these big questions that came from adopting differing theoretical propositions and by exploring differing levels of analysis. From there, I specialized in IR at the London School of Economics, where these questions still drove my research into American hegemony and pushed me towards sociology-inspired IR theory.

How did you become interested in Southeast Asia specifically?
I came to Southeast Asia relatively late in my education during my first year of doctoral studies. By then, I saw the field’s growing focus on “habits” and “practices” as a promising way to understand stability and order in the international system and its subsystems, and saw the region as an exciting case to explore. I had some familiarity with the region through my previous historical studies and the work of major constructivist authors (e.g. Amitav Acharya; Alice Ba), and I saw a gap in IR literature. In short, I wondered what norms of inter-state cooperation were actually upheld in practice, and with what effect. I delved into the literature, spent a few months at ASEAN speaking with regional officials, and became convinced IR had missed some of the foundational cognitive and behavioral qualities of inter-state relations there. More generally, I was hooked on exploring the inter-state relations of the region.

What do you see as the value of comparative study and how has that guided your own research?
My doctoral research, “Habits of Peace: The Foundations of Long-term Regional Cooperation in Southeast Asia and South America,” which is currently being cobbled into a book, explores the existence and effect of distinctive habitual qualities of inter-state security cooperation in these two regional cases. The comparative element illustrates the profound distinctions in how comparable groups of policy-elites respond to similar crises of regional stability in very different ways. Despite what officials may think and say, there is no “normal way that diplomacy works,” as one interviewee phrased it. What is normal, natural and indeed effective for one community is not so for another. I find this reality fascinating and important, and only through comparative study is it appreciable.

How do you see ASEAN issues in today’s context (US pivot back, China flexing muscles, rising terrorism threats, etc.)?
The issues that face ASEAN and its member states are many. Within the region, the plight of the Rohingya population, rising fears of terrorism, challenges to democracy, and the effects of climate change, environmental degradation, and natural disasters, to say nothing of the tremendous diversity among states, which complicates the growing aspiration of social, economic and political unity within the ASEAN Community, are all increasingly pronounced challenges. Extra-regional threats are just as numerous, with concerns over the South China Sea as perhaps the most starkly apparent. All these issues present challenges to the organizational and normative order of the region, but also present opportunities for continued regional cooperation. In a shameless plug, these issues will be discussed in detail at the upcoming Sept. 18 conference: ASEAN@50: Challenges and Opportunities, where I hope students and faculty alike will join in conversation. I am thrilled to be joining NIU, and CSEAS in particular. I look forward to working with students and faculty to explore these—and many other—issues within and beyond Southeast Asia.
News of the death of founding CSEAS Director and Political Science Professor Emeritus M. Ladd Thomas, 87, who passed away Saturday, Oct. 22, at Oak Crest Retirement Center in DeKalb word spread quickly among the Thai Studies community worldwide as NIU’s Thai Studies Group prepared for the 44th Council on Thai Studies conference on Oct. 28–29.

As NIU’s first Thai specialist, Thomas initiated the first meeting of COTS in 1972, its purpose being to bring together Thai scholars from around the Midwest once a year to exchange ideas and discuss research, with NIU, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Ohio University serving as rotating hosts.

Thomas, who received his PhD from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy from Tufts University, came to NIU from Rutgers University in 1963 already established as a specialist in both Thailand and the Philippines where he had been a Senior Fulbright Scholar. As the first head of CSEAS in 1963, one of Thomas’s first tasks was to work on helping to build NIU’s collection of Southeast Asia research materials, which now draws scholars from around the world to study its more than 75,000 volumes, 766 periodical subscriptions and more than 3,000 microforms. He also was instrumental in the creation of an interdisciplinary community of Southeast Asian studies scholars at NIU.

Thomas was a widely published authority on Southeast Asian politics and government, primarily in Thailand, where his area of expertise focused on development administration (in particular rural development programs), and international relations, especially the intersection of foreign policies and security concerns. In Thailand, remembers Political Science Professor Emeritus and longtime friend Clark Neher, “Ladd seemed to know everyone. When we were in Thailand, he introduced me to countless officials and academics. When I mentioned to someone in Thailand that I was from NIU, the person invariably replied, ‘oh, you must know Dr. Thomas.’” Thomas was also recognized in 1986 by the late king of Thailand, His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, who conferred the Crown of Thailand award on Thomas for his work helping to establish Thailand’s National Institute of Development Administration.

Thomas retired in 2005 after a full career that included serving as chair of the Political Science department and mentoring dozens of graduate students from both the US and abroad. In 2010, Thomas received a Distinguished Faculty Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which noted that the “strength of both the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the Department of Political Science, in particular Thai Studies, rests on the hard work of Professor Thomas, an iconic pioneer scholar of the college.”

Ladd was remembered fondly at a short memorial during COTS organized by CSEAS associate Andrea Molnar. Neher, Molnar, Thai language professor emeritus John Hartmann and former students Paul Chambers, who teaches international relations at Chiang Mai University, and Napsa Waitoolkit of Naresuan University spoke of Thomas’s invaluable connections, his effervescent good cheer, his endless supply of anecdotes, and his abiding interest in both his students and the region to which he devoted his remarkable life.

“He loved telling his field stories and he was a natural storyteller about his very rich and larger-than-life experiences,” remembers Molnar, whose research in peace and conflict studies in Southern Thailand was of particular interest to Thomas, also an expert in the region’s conflicted history. “One Thanksgiving when I had some students over, he relished the audience sitting at his feet as he rocked in the armchair recounting some of his adventures... He took any opportunity to tell these stories. I often wish someone had recorded them.”

Ever the scholar, Thomas was a regular attendee of CSEAS lectures, gatherings and special events up until his health began to decline in recent years. He will always be remembered as one of the Center’s founding fathers without whom CSEAS would not be the thriving place it is today.

**Thomas bequest**

Upon his death, Ladd Thomas left a $20,000 bequest to the Thai Teaching and Research Endowment Fund. The fund was established in 2009 with a generous donation by the Royal Thai Government to support funding for scholarships, library acquisitions, visiting scholars and student and faculty travel to the region for research and language study. Thomas’s gift will be used to further those goals and carry on his legacy. For details, see the NIU Foundation website.
NIU Political Science Professor Daniel Unger, known by friends, family and colleagues as Danny, died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 61 on Friday, March 14, in Sebastopol, California. He is survived by his wife Chandra Mahakanjana and their two sons, Amos and Otys.

Unger, who spent part of his youth in Southeast Asia as the son of career diplomat Leonard S. Unger, was drawn to political science early on, earning a BA in political science at Stanford in 1977 and continuing on to obtain his MA and PhD in the field from the University of California-Berkeley in 1989. Before entering academia, Unger briefly worked as an editorial assistant for the Woodrow Wilson Quarterly and Foreign Policy Magazine and as an editor-translator for the Ministry of International Trade and Industry in Tokyo (he spoke English, French, Japanese and Thai).

As a postdoctoral scholar, he held visiting fellowships and professorships at the Reischauer Center at Harvard, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Georgetown University, the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins and the School of International Service at American University. He came to NIU in 2000.

“Danny Unger arrived at NIU in 2000 as my successor in the Department of Political Science,” said Professor Emeritus Clark Neher, former director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies who used to speak with Unger once a week by phone. “He was the perfect person for the job because he was a publishing scholar of Thailand, spoke Thai fluently. . . and had plenty of teaching experience teaching about the politics of Southeast Asia at Georgetown.”

As an associate professor, Unger taught courses in comparative politics, international political economy, Japanese foreign policy and international law and organizations, and was a member of the NIU Thai Studies Committee. He designed and implemented a study abroad program to Thailand, coordinated survey research in Thailand, organized conferences in Illinois and Thailand, and created the Bangkok Research Seminar, monthly meetings of PhD students in social sciences working on Thailand. He helped re-establish links between the department’s Division of Public Administration and the National Institute of Development Administration in Bangkok in 2008 as well as facilitated three grants totaling more than $200,000 to CSEAS from the Royal Thai Government to establish the Thai Teaching and Research Endowment Fund at NIU.

Unger’s early interest in publishing was reflected in his publications record: two books, three edited volumes and 29 journal articles and book chapters. At the time of his death, he was awaiting the publication of What Everyone Needs to Know about Thai Politics (Oxford University Press, forthcoming). He and Chandra (who received her PhD in political science from NIU before the two were married in 2006) most recently had co-authored Thai Politics: Between Democracy and its Discontents (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2016).

Unger’s legacy will be his students. Recalled department chair Scot Schraufnagel, “While at NIU, Danny was the chair of twelve doctoral dissertations and assisted another two dozen students complete their master’s degree. Many of his students have gone on to become noted scholars in their own right. Perhaps Danny is most known for his immense compassion. He was a caring and careful listener always available to offer poignant and quality advice.”

Since leaving NIU, Unger had divided his time between his home in California and Thailand, where he served as a visiting professor at Thammasat University and adjunct professor at the National Institute of Development Administration. He learned of his diagnosis barely two months before his death, but worked nearly to the end to see to it that his last doctoral student, CSEAS graduate assistant Thomas Rhoden, would be prepared for his dissertation defense. (see Rhoden’s remembrance in New Mandala).

A celebration of Unger’s life is planned for Oct. 29, from 1 to 5 p.m., in Sebastopol. Contact nancyunger@gmail.com for information.
Fellowship Notes

Honing the edge on campus and abroad

Twelve graduate students and five undergraduates have been awarded Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships for the 2017–18 academic year, along with five students who received summer FLAS funding to further their language training in Southeast Asia.

Graduate FLAS fellows include Kristen Amstutz (MA anthropology, Khmer); Claire Buchanan (MA anthropology, Indonesian); Samuel Bunting (JD law, Tagalog); Kassandra Chhay (MA anthropology, Khmer); Cameron Foreman (MA history, Tagalog); Samuel Mallow (MS geology, Khmer); Amanda Spradling (MA art history, Thai); Markie Striegel (MA art history, Burmese); Kallen Terry (MA history, Khmer); Janet Vallejo (MA political science, Tagalog) and Daniel Wade (JD law, Indonesian).

Undergraduate FLAS fellows are Katelyn DePuy (sociology/community leadership and civic engagement, Burmese); Margaret Higginbotham (computer science, Thai); Rachel Jacob (history/political science, Indonesian); Airetta Myrick (psychology, Thai) and Andrew Waite (business, human resource administration, Indonesian).

Over the summer, 11 CSEAS students received funding to travel to Southeast Asia for intensive language study, five receiving summer 2017 FLAS fellowships. Kristen Amstutz (MA anthropology), Samuel Mallow (MS geology) and Kallen Terry (MA history) studied Khmer at the Khmer School of Language in Phnom Penh; Matthew Peerboom (MA political science) took Burmese at Yangon University in Myanmar; and Amanda Spradling (MA art history) pursued Thai at Chiang Mai University in Thailand.

In addition, six students and one 2017 alumnus received funding through two programs to do advanced language training in Indonesia. Graduate student Claire Buchanan (MA anthropology), undergraduate Rachel Jacob (history/political science) and alum Leo Reich (BA English, 2017) studied Indonesian in Malang, East Java, through the US Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship program. Undergraduates Christine Dose (anthropology), Kelsey Duquette (anthropology), Margaret Miller (biochemistry/psychology), and Andrew Waite (business-human resource management) received Fulbright-Hays scholarships through the Consortium for the Teaching of Indonesian (COTI) to attend the eight-week immersion program at the Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana (UKSW) in Salatiga, Central Java.

Academic-year FLAS fellowships provide a tuition-fee waiver, health insurance and a monthly stipend. Summer FLAS fellowships cover tuition and a stipend for travel and other expenses. A Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education funds both programs, with support from the Graduate School for graduate tuition waivers. The application deadline for summer 2018 FLAS grants is Jan. 1. The deadline to apply for 2018–19 academic-year fellowships is Feb. 1.

In addition to summer and academic-year FLAS fellowships, there are numerous other funding opportunities for Southeast Asian language and area studies including:

- Blakemore Foundation
- Boren Awards for International Study
- Center for Khmer Studies
- Consortium for Teaching Indonesian (COTI)
A nod for the Neher: Azriansyah Agoes

CSEAS graduate assistant Azriansyah Agoes has been awarded the 2017–18 Clark and Arlene Neher Graduate Fellowship for the Study of Southeast Asia. Agoes, a doctoral student in political science, is from Malang, East Java. After receiving his bachelor’s degree in political science from Universitas Indonesia in 2008, Agoes successfully applied to be a foreign service officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta, where he worked for four years.

Interested in studying political economy in Southeast Asia, Agoes came to NIU to work with professor and political economy specialist Danny Unger in 2012 in the Department of Political Science’s MA/PhD program. After Unger’s retirement in 2014, he began working with associate professor and Cambodia specialist Kheang Un, receiving his MA in 2016. Agoes is pursuing his doctoral research, focusing on the political economy of natural resource exploitation, doing a comparative study of Indonesia and Cambodia.

“To achieve a high level of income and become wealthy, a country has to produce more sophisticated products,” Agoes says. “In the case of Indonesia, it cannot rely on natural resources or plantations forever. Rubber, for example, is still being produced as it was a hundred years ago. Cambodia, for example, still relies on low-skill, low-tech rice farming. Several factors can help countries move forward, such as enforcing modern standards or offering technical education to improve skills. But the long horizon of change can be politically difficult.”

Since 2014, Agoes has been a graduate assistant at the Center, where he has been the cheerful administrator of the Indonesian government-funded PKPI program. Every fall, between 8 and 11 PKPI fellows come to NIU for a semester to work on advancing their research projects or articles for publication under the guidance of a faculty mentor. In 2017–18 he will be the teaching assistant for SEAS 225, the Center’s Southeast Asia survey course.

Agoes is the sixteenth graduate student to receive the 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 $4,000 fellowship plus tuition waiver for the next academic year is awarded in spring to one advanced-level graduate student planning research in Southeast Asia.

The deadline to apply for the 2018–19 Neher graduate scholarship is Feb. 1.
From Myanmar to Indonesia and the Philippines, CSEAS graduate students put their in-country research skills to the test.
By Iqra Anugrah

It was Tuesday, January 12, 2016. After a quick breakfast with a fist of kampung-style fried rice and a cup of tea, I was ready to go. I soon found myself standing on the side of the highway, waiting for the Jakarta-bound bus to come. “Jakarta-Kebon Jeruk-Kampung Rambutan!” yelled the bus conductor, calling the passengers to board the bus.

It was just like my regular Serang-Jakarta trips, except the purpose of my visit to Jakarta this time was to attend and observe the fourth national congress of the Confederation of Indonesian People’s Movements, or KPRI for short, a national confederation of various social movements and unions across different sectors, representing workers, peasants, fishermen, women and indigenous peoples. A friend of mine kindly invited me to the congress. “You should come,” she said.

So there I was, sitting in the congress hall, paying attention to what KPRI’s leaders, organizers and invited speakers said. Apparently, this was one of the latest attempts by Indonesian leftists and activists to make a breakthrough into oligarchy-dominated mainstream politics, in which big capital and remnants of the authoritarian elites continue to be important actors in politics. As a former student activist, I found this development interesting. Yet, as a scholar in training, I have many questions as to how this confederation will develop down the road. For instance, how will KPRI broaden its support base given the fragmented nature of lower-class unions and movements in Indonesia? Furthermore, what are its strategies in facing upcoming elections? Of course, in trying to be a bit moderate, I also maintain a cautious optimism.

Fortunately, I was not the only one who was pondering those questions. Other activist friends whom I met in the congress shared similar sentiments. This inevitably led to a series of lively discussions among us, but when the congress meetings started, we stopped. Some of us, including myself, even volunteered as note-takers for some of the sessions.

At the local level, the task of community organizing, let alone movement building, can be even more challenging since the local political condition and civil society landscape might not be as conducive as the national one for social movement activities. This is what I have observed in Serang in the last five months or so. Serang is one of the districts in the Banten Province, a province notorious for its corrupt oligarchic dynasty, the Rau Dynasty. The dynasty’s matriarch, Ratu Atut, who is also a former governor...
of Banten, is now in jail for corruption. However, the dynasty still prevails in Bantenese politics—it will not collapse anytime soon. The result of the latest Serang District Head election is proof of the continuing dynastic rule: Ratu Tatu, Ratu Atut’s younger sister, won the election to become the District Head of Serang.

Furthermore, the current state of civil society forces in Serang is quite weak. In several communities that I have observed since September 2015, non-state civil society activities, such as NGO activities and programs, are something rather unheard of based on the accounts of both ordinary community members and village officials. Buzzwords such as “development” and “community participation” are almost inevitably linked to phrases like “the role of local government.” Moreover, patronage politics and clientelistic practices remain rampant. In the village I lived in, I witnessed a local MP for the Serang District Parliament from the Democratic Party (Partai Demokrat) giving away 20,000 to 50,000 rupiahs (about $1.50 to $4) to community members who attended talk in his visit during parliamentary recess. In another village, I heard stories of how the local MP, a Gerindra Party cadre who represented the village, always made sure to distribute enough coffee and cigarettes in every gathering for Koran recitation or pengajian that he organized regularly. Hearing and observing all of this makes me wonder: is this the legacy of the New Order Era?

This does not mean that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are entirely absent in Serang. In fact, some of them are active. One NGO is Rekonvasi Bhumi, an environmental preservation NGO whose main beneficiaries are peasant communities in the western part of Serang. One of Rekonvasi Bhumi’s main programs is the promotion of Payment for Environmental Service (PES) and community-based watershed management. They do this through the Cidanau Watershed Communication Forum, or FKDC, a tripartite entity brokered by Rekonvasi Bhumi, which connects communities, the Banten Provincial Government, and several corporations whose water supplies come from Cidanau Watershed. The idea behind PES is to ask the private sector compensation for ecological commodities—in this case the watershed—which communities provide. This means that the peasant communities received additional incomes from their farming and environmental conservation activities. The end goal of this scheme, according to the Executive Director of Rekonvasi Bhumi, is to create “a prosperous and productive community of small and household farmers.” This may sound like a good idea, but not everyone agrees with this proposal. “That NGO has so many ties with big corporations,” said a colleague of mine, a militant local activist, with disdain. For him, NGOs and social movements should limit their ties with corporations in order to maintain their independence and truly represent community voices. He might be right.

Researching and observing all of this has kept my mind busy for the past couple of months. Sometimes I think a lot about this while I am on the road, on my trip to Serang City, the villages, or Jakarta. I often ask, is it possible to organize collective action from below effectively? To date I still have not found the best possible answer to this question. This inquiry can be a little bit frustrating. Fortunately, I have found consolation through sleepless nights of endless chitchats with my neighbors and friends in the villages, accompanied by coffee, snacks, and cigarettes. Hearing their stories of daily struggle with the hardships of life, often filled with jokes, and their relaxed attitude to the challenges they face inspires me to do the same: to be resilient in my struggle in the quest of knowledge.

Anugrah is a doctoral candidate in political science studying the politics of elite-peasant relations in post-authoritarian Indonesia. This article originally appeared in the latest issue of the University of Hawaii’s journal, Explorations: A Graduate Student Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, Vol. 13. Anugrah will be returning to NIU in the fall after two years of fieldwork in his home country of Indonesia.
By Carmin Berchiolly

This past summer I was given the unique opportunity to complete my Museum Studies internship requirement in the field by working on a project on traditional Burmese reverse glass painting culminating in an international exhibition and academic symposium to be held June 20 at the University of Mandalay Research Center. The project was a collaboration between NIU and the University of Mandalay and Yadanabon University.

Pre-departure

In early May, prior to leaving for Myanmar, my Museum Studies peer Markie Striegel (MA art history) and I communicated remotely with the in-country team to submit proposals to the Ministry of Education and to gain approval and official invitations to conduct the internship under the supervision of both universities. We also began working on the preparation of exhibition materials. For the past three years, I have worked with Art History Professor and Center for Burma Studies Director Catherine Raymond—along with Dr. Tin Naing Win, lecturer Nyein Chan Soe, and students from both universities—to collect information about reverse glass painting. As preparation for the internship, I created exhibition labels related to a specific technical process of this craft, which I have documented with the help of artist Ko Shan, who lives and works from his village in Monywa. We drafted an exhibition plan and layout for the symposium site based on measurements we had taken in 2016. We also worked with NIU’s Creative Services department to design ten standing banners we planned to finish in Burma with the help of the team there. The goal was to create as much of the design as possible knowing we could face time constraints once we arrived.

Pre-installation

The exhibition’s main lenders came from private collections identified in the past few years. In Yangon, we borrowed six unique and older pieces from Terrance Tan. In Mandalay, artist U Sein Myint lent us some older examples as well. In Monywa, artist Ko Shan lent us five of his older paintings for the opening reception and some of his negative film templates for the duration of the show.

The majority of pieces in the exhibition, some 60 paintings, came from a collection we identified in 2015 at a shop inside the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. We worked with the Yangon-based continued on page 16
INYA INSTITUTE TO HOUSE THE PIECES FOR US before we were able to transport them to the University of Mandalay. We transported the paintings personally from each city to the exhibition room where I spent a week cleaning them and preparing them for exhibition. The paintings contained a lot of dust and animal droppings, as well as considerable dirt on the glass surface. The cleaning and dusting process was conducted at the University of Mandalay with supplies we obtained with the help of Nyein Chan Soe.

Once we determined the exhibition layout, we had to determine the number of paintings we could display given the space available. We chose a selection based on our research of all the project participants in order to encompass everyone’s interest and to provide a comprehensive account of our research. We also spent considerable time and effort getting all our labels printed on vinyl. In Burma, vinyl printing is extremely affordable, which allowed us to create 30-by-80-inch banners in both English and Burmese.

Installation
Once we arrived at the University of Mandalay, we spent two weeks working long days in the exhibition room in order to be ready for opening day. The local team—Mg Tun, Nyein Chan Soe, Daw Moe Moe, Dr. Francois Tainturier, Dr. Tin Naing Wing, and numerous others—provided valuable assistance in helping us mobilize and speed up the process. The first week we focused on meeting with the teams, organizing a plan and layout, and gathering of installation materials as well as finalizing details related to the symposium. The second week we completed the actual installation, including the room for the symposium. A large number of University of Mandalay staff and faculty came together during the day before the opening to finalize finishing touches.

Opening Reception and Symposium
We welcomed more than 300 visitors on the first day and closed the exhibition with an estimated 1,000 visitors. Visiting groups came from all over the university and surrounding universities as well. We also received considerable media coverage in the local news channels and newspapers. The opening reception included a teaching workshop with one of the last living reverse-glass artists, U Chit Mya, who taught his skill to a public audience. As part of the internship, both Markiel and I gave presentations during the international symposium.

In attendance were the Prime Minister of the Mandalay Region as well as the rectors of both Mandalay and Yadanabon universities.

Post-exhibition
With the help of Mg Tun, Nyein Chan Soe, Dr. Francois Tainturier, and other staff who came that day, we were able to de-install the exhibition in about five hours. Our focus for this part of the process was on dividing the paintings that were not loans between NIU and University of Mandalay in order to prepare a comprehensive traveling exhibition in both countries. We also arranged to return all of our loans safely and promptly, including hand-deliveries by the main members of the team.

After the symposium project was complete, part of the internship included visiting other area museums to see how curators displayed their work. We visited:

- Yangon National Museum, where we met with the curator and other staff members;
- Thamboday temple in Monywa, which contains a special museum showcasing the history of the temple and monastery through life-sized statues and old historical photographs;
- University of Mandalay’s collection, which includes biographical holdings, Burmese manuscripts, Burmese artifacts such as wooden temple decorative panels and door pieces, and Burmese lacquered chests depicting the life of the Buddha;
- Pagan Archeological Museum, which holds a massive collection of Buddha images from various periods;
- Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan, which houses a prayer room filled with a large collection of reverse glass paintings; and
- Museum Pagan, which houses a large number of ancient stone inscriptions.

Lessons learned
This internship taught me how to navigate a limited budget in an international setting. While we are accustomed to working with small budgets in the US, the international setting presented new challenges. Currency conversions, exchange rates, and normal cost of materials and other costs were important to consider, keeping in mind the cultural expectation of negotiating while making purchases. We also had to consider the short length of the exhibition to ensure that we did not overspend on materials that did not need to withstand long-term use.

Markie and I learned a lot both in terms of local naming of specific materials and of the availability of materials that we know in the US. While some names remained the same, pronunciations could be different, leading to some entertaining moments while shopping for things. We were able to exchange certain practices, and I learned new techniques and ways to use materials that I had not considered before. For example, we learned how to wrap unevenly shaped objects with tarp and thread made from plastic.

From a cultural perspective, we had discussions related to the practice of touching art objects. During the opening of the exhibition, we introduced the practice of leaving bags and other objects (such as water bottles or bike helmets) at a designated table. Some of these practices we observed already taking place at major museums in the country, so the discussion related to this was rich and informative.
A new challenge for us was the high levels of humidity due to monsoon rains and the layout of buildings, which allowed for high levels of wind and natural light. We also had new species of animals to consider while installing, such as the small Burmese gecko. Additionally, we had to remain very conscious of the deeply Buddhist environment and remain respectful of all creatures.

These challenges presented a wonderful learning opportunity that would be difficult to replicate in the U.S. While having to deal with bugs, reptiles, and insects is not the dream of an exhibition team, we learned so much more.

The entire internship experience has allowed me to see and more deeply understand the importance of museums and exhibition spaces around the world. I found immense value in being able to visit such a wide range of collections to see how different organizations tackle the same issues we encounter in the U.S. Through this experience, I feel more prepared and capable of handling future museum projects.

Berchiolly, the 2016–17 Clark and Arlene Neher Fellow, is a doctoral student in art history. An exhibition of Burmese reverse glass painting, curated by Catherine Raymond, is under development, as is the creation of a catalog documenting this research.
Conducting scientific fieldwork in a Southeast Asian country is unlike anywhere else in the world. This is particularly true in Myanmar (Burma), where most of the country’s population have had limited exposure to Westerners and the scientific method. There were other challenges as well, including access to sites, information, equipment, internet, power, and a language barrier (even with one year of Burmese under my belt).

I made two trips to Myanmar in 2016 with Geology Professor and CSEAS affiliate Melissa Lenczewski. My first trip during the summer had a steep learning curve. It felt as if I was on a live TV show where you get dropped into a remote location without much knowledge of what you are getting into and with only one item of your choosing to help you survive. In my case, it was “How to Construct a Thesis on the Fly in the Developing World,” but with two suitcases full of equipment.

Having good local contacts, in this case through Yadanabon University, to help solve problems that arose on site was vital. For example, I spent three days figuring out how to get into the university to retrieve my research equipment that had ended up submerged under several feet of water after a flood. With the help of my Yadanabon contacts, a very large truck and a small boat, I was finally able to wade through the front gates and successfully corral my equipment to go out to my research site.

At the onset, I was nervous to approach the community-dug wells in Amarapura Township, feeling unsure if it was okay for me to sample the water while women were bathing nearby. I could only imagine what they thought of this random American there on an unknown scientific endeavor. Most of the local residents only stared, but a few were curious enough to approach us. A couple of them even insisted we sit and have a snack with them, kindly laying out tea, tea salad and fruit for us to share with them.

In addition to the challenge of collecting water samples and data, we were also in Myanmar to interact with professors from all different backgrounds, educating them about both the field of hydrogeology and how to conduct proper scientific research. We needed to shift their understanding of why sampling one point only one time would not yield a scientific paper. Our task was to lead them through the process of walking through the research process and critically analyzing the scientific method.

Upon my return to Myanmar in December, the people who lived close to the sampling wells remembered me and welcomed me back. I had a personal taxi driver from the first trip, Tay Zar Lin, who had become my most important assistant. He understood very little of what I said, but by the second trip he knew where my sites were by memory. He began helping me conduct my research once he figured out my sampling routine at each well. Professors from Yadanabon University—Yee Yee Oo, Khin Maung Htwe, Naing Lin, Zaw Win and U Hla Moe—regularly adjusted their schedules to assure I got the help I needed to finish my project. I feel sure I could not have accomplished my objective without this group of individuals. The second trip was not without its hiccups, but it went significantly more smoothly than the first. During my final presentation at Yadanabon University on my research project, it was clear that many of the professors we had been working with had begun to understand what we were doing. My audience asked specific questions related to the data and challenged me to explain what I had done.

In the end, the most difficult task was returning to the United States and trying to explain to someone here what I went through to collect my data. Unless you have been there, interacted with the people, played charades to order food, stood next to bathing women while sampling, smelled the methane bubbling from the toxic stream next to your well, or wrestled with a fish in a well trying to eat your camera, it can be hard to appreciate the experience.

A 2016–17 FLAS fellow, Gryzbowski received his MS in geology in August. The title of his thesis is “The Water Quality and Physical Hydrogeology of Mandalay, Myanmar.”
Aurora, Ill., to Myanmar: Following the refugee story

By Karla Findley

A graduate degree was the furthest thing from my mind seven years ago when I was introduced to a Karen refugee family in Aurora, Ill. As a volunteer for the World Relief Organization in Aurora, about 45 minutes from DeKalb, I had agreed to visit newly arrived refugees from Myanmar and help them adjust to life in the United States. I assisted with homework, read mail, and helped them navigate many new situations. My daughters and I spent many hours sitting on the living room floor as these individuals transformed from people we were trying to help into members of our extended family. We learned each other’s story. Theirs is one of fleeing Burma, where their ethnic group has faced tremendous adversity over the past century, and living in refugee camps in Thailand before resettling in Aurora where several hundred Karen now live.

Four years after the Karen became a part of my everyday life, I found myself at NIU pursuing a master’s of cultural anthropology focusing on their refugee experience. I began to analyze the stories my friends had told me in light of academic literature and research. Anthropology is grounded in fieldwork and I quickly realized that I had already accumulated large amounts of field data. By collecting oral histories from the Karen, I hoped to obtain their perspectives on their shared history, their interactions with the Burmese government, their experience as enemies of the state and as refugees, and the process of resettlement. As they told their stories, I hoped to find patterns of identity across three geographical lived experiences: at home in Burma in their village, in the refugee camps of Thailand, and finally, in their current home in the United States. By analyzing concepts that remained constant as well as those that changed over time, I hoped to identify elements of identity that the Karen of Aurora value, even if they might not discuss them initially as such.

Unlike most Southeast Asia cultural anthropology research, my fieldwork was based in the United States within 10 minutes of my permanent home. In fact, my fieldwork included some homes and individuals with whom I was previously familiar. I relied on their ability to paint the picture of their homeland and refugee camp. I also relied on interpreters to have the English vocabulary to do the Karen language justice. I know that in both cases, the words fell short.

After years of hearing descriptions and Googling pictures of the refugees’ homeland, I was finally able to spend ten weeks in Burma in 2015 as a summer FLAS Fellow. There I met other Karen who lived in Burma and began to deepen my understanding of the many levels of Karen identity. I lived with successful Karen families and visited overtly Karen stores, churches and villages in urban and rural settings. When I did my subsequent research collecting oral histories in 2016, I was able to ask deeper questions instead of focusing on superficial, descriptive questions. A greater, personal understanding of Burmese culture allowed me to contextualize the refugees’ stories for analysis.

Finally, this past July, I was able to visit the third location of the refugee story: the refugee camp in Thailand. This weekend trip was short but fruitful. Traveling with art historian and Center for Burma Studies Director Dr. Catherine Raymond and CSEAS alumnus Thomas Rhoden (PhD political science, 2017), who specializes in political science of the Thai and Karen at the Thai-Burmese border, I found life on the border to be very fluid. The diversity of the trip participants encouraged many critical discussions.

Throughout this process, I have found there is not one single narrative that fits every Karen refugee. While many of the Aurora refugees have similar stories, they are not the same. On a larger scale, the Karen refugee narrative represents just a small percentage of the larger worldwide Karen population. My fieldwork abroad has proven foundational to gaining a better understanding of the Karen refugees in Aurora. While my time as a graduate student is over, my thesis research will be used to develop a future exhibit on the Karen refugees of Aurora for the NIU Art Museum.

By Shannon Thomas

My fieldwork over the course of nine months, August 2016 to May 2017, focused on documenting Tagbanua cultural and environmental beliefs in Aborlan, Palawan, Philippines. This research analyzed the relationship between a particular indigenous Filipino tribal society, the Aborlan Tagbanua, and their natural environment, in particular how their cultural practices support conservation.

The Tagbanua face issues associated with ancestral land loss and increased environmental degradation, the result of both corporate and government interests and the arrival of migrants to their native regions. My fieldwork focused on the ways in which the Tagbanua rely on their surrounding environment through their cultural practices and beliefs.

The Tagbanua are rumored to have sacred forest regions that inhibit anyone from disturbing the areas, whether through clearing of forests, farming, or even walking through these forested areas. Based on my discussions with Tagbanua interviewees, I found that the importance of sacred forest areas in Tagbanua culture inadvertently creates a space for forest growth and regeneration in the areas surrounding the forests. Sacred forests act as seed banks allowing the surrounding areas, whether used for farming, swidden agriculture or simply left uncultivated, to quickly regenerate.

Thus, my findings indicate that Tagbanua cultural belief prohibits the forests deemed “sacred” from being disrupted, while ecological stability is maintained within the forests and its surrounding areas. Ultimately, I found that the concept of nature is embedded within Tagbanua culture through the protection of sacred forests. Documenting the function of sacred forests and the tradition of keeping these areas protected is crucial to maintaining cultural knowledge of the Tagbanua of Aborlan. It is my hope that by compiling an updated analysis of Tagbanua culture and use of the natural environment, the heritage of the Tagbanua may be preserved for future generations.

A 2016–17 Fulbright student in Palawan, Thomas received her MA in anthropology in May. Her thesis is entitled “Documenting Tagbanua Indigenous Cultural Practices that Support Environmental Conservation in Palawan, Philippines.” Thomas has since returned to the Philippines to work with the Palawan NGO Network on fostering youth involvement with community environmental projects. “I will be in charge of facilitating and monitoring projects associated with coral reef protection and sea turtle conservation among other marine-related projects,” she says. “This experience will bring together my background in environmental studies and my recent anthropological work on the island . . . while also allowing me to sharpen my Tagalog skills. I can’t wait to start this new chapter.”
Defenses made, requirements met, degrees conferred

Fourteen CSEAS-affiliated graduate and undergraduate students graduated from NIU during the 2016–17 academic year and summer 2017. Six graduate students completed advanced degrees with a concentration in Southeast Asian studies in 2017. Receiving their doctorates in May were Thomas Rhoden (political science) and LilyAnn Villaraza (history). Rhoden has accepted a job in international development with the Atlanta, Ga., headquarters of CARE and Villaraza is the new chair of the Philippine Studies Department at City College of San Francisco, where she began as an adjunct faculty member in spring 2014. Receiving their master's degrees were Karla Findley (MA anthropology), Mao Lee (MA educational psychology), Raychel Taylor (MM music) and Shannon Thomas (MA anthropology). Seven undergraduates received bachelor's degrees with minors in Southeast Asian Studies: Kristen Amstutz (anthropology), Sanah Baig (English), Sherry Butler (psychology), Cole Fraser (economics), Matthew Peerboom (political science), Leo Reich (English) and Benjamin Thomas (history). Ronnie Nataatmadja (political science) defended his dissertation in May and received his doctorate in August.

Other noteworthy student accomplishments in 2016–17:

Three CSEAS students were named Outstanding Graduate Students in their departments by the Graduate School in April: Thomas Rhoden (PhD political science, 2017), Carmin Berchially (PhD art history) and FLAS fellow Raychel Taylor (MM music, 2017). Two other CSEAS students also received Graduate School awards, FLAS fellow Mao Lee (MA Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations, 2017) received the Jeffrey T. Lunsford award and JoAnn LoSavio (PhD history) received the Carter G. Woodson Fellowship.

Iqra Anugrah (PhD candidate, political science), who will be returning to NIU in the fall after two years of field research in Indonesia, won one of NIU’s highly competitive Dissertation Completion Fellowships. During his time away, Anugrah has been actively publishing and presenting. He served as a discussant June 16 for the Arryman Fellow Symposium, which showcases the work of Indonesian Arryman Fellows at Northwestern University. He gave a research methods training session for the Mining Advocacy Network May 21 in Jakarta. He gave a talk on agrarian transformation and rural poverty at the Akar Foundation, a rural development NGO, in the city of Bengkulu. His 2016 article, “Cementing Dissent in Indonesia,” first published in New Mandala, has been republished in Monthly Review Online. He contributed a chapter, “Land Rights Movements in Contemporary Indonesia,” to Activists in Transition: Contentious Politics in New Indonesia, an edited volume stemming from a February workshop at the University of Sydney.

continued on page 22
Embassy’s West-East Debate April

Testriono (PhD political science) won an International Foundation for Electoral System Hybi Fellowship to conduct original research in Washington, DC over the summer. Testriono, who has been at the Center as a 2016–17 graduate assistant for the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program, also published “Why Has the Policing of Religious Intolerance Failed?” in the Jan. 12 edition of The Jakarta Post.

Political Science graduate students Azriansyah Agoes and Testriono received the Political Science department’s 2017 Russell Smith travel scholarship toward conducting field research in Southeast Asia. Fellow student Afrimadona received the department’s Martin David Dubin Memorial Scholarship for academic merit.

Agoes and Afrimadona, and fellow student Sirojuddin Arif, were all at the lectern at the April 6–9 Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago. Agoes presented “The Politics of Natural Resource Use: A Comparative Study of Forest Exploitation in Cambodia and Indonesia;” Afrimadona, “Political Polarization and Partisan Bias in US Foreign Policy;” and Sirojuddin, Cursed by Oil? Agrarian Crisis, Peasant Farmers and the Politics of Resource Allocation in Nigeria.”


Leo Reich (BA English, 2017) exercised his advanced Bahasa Indonesia skills to won second place at the Indonesian Embassy’s West-East Debate April 8 in Washington, DC. This was the second such debate, all conducted in Indonesian, sponsored by the embassy and the Consortium for the Teaching of Indonesian (COTI). Reich took first place in the intermediate high Indonesian level at the first such debate held Oct. 29 at Cornell University; fellow NIU students Nadia Biletska and Margaret Miller took first and second place in the intermediate low category at that debate. Also competing from NIU among the 18 Indonesian language students from around the country were advanced students Rachel Jacob and Andrew Waite and intermediate student Christine Dose.

Shannon Thomas (MA anthropology, 2017) presented her findings from her fieldwork on the indigenous Tagbanua tribe at the Mid-Year Enrichment Conference for U.S. Fulbrighters in Southeast Asia and Timor-Leste March 14–17 in Makati City, Philippines. CSEAS associate Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music), on a faculty Fulbright to Indonesia in 2016–17, also attended the conference.

Amanda Spradling (MA art history) was selected to attend the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies’ summer 2017 Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre (NSC) Archaeological Field School in Siem Reap, Cambodia, and Singapore with 10 students from 18 countries.

Rachel Jacob (BA political science/history) was voted president of the NIU Student Association for 2017–18. She served as vice-president in 2016–17.

SEAYLP Scholars make their mark

The Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) Scholars at NIU are racking up awards during their time at NIU. I Younan An of Cambodia (political science) received the NIU Honors Program’s Outstanding Junior Award for 2016–17. As a delegate to Model Illinois Government 2017 March 2–5 in Springfield, he was tapped to be the Vice Chair of the Education Committee and the Majority Party Whip for the Illinois House of Representatives. I Younan, who works as a community adviser in NIU housing, also received two National Residence Hall awards: Outstanding Member of the Year and an Honorary Member Scholarship. I Younan also received the Junior Kevin D. Knight Leadership Award, a service award sponsored by the Student Involvement and Leadership Development office, in April. Mar Louie Mayubay (MS accountancy) received the graduate Kevin D. Knight Leadership Award. Mayubay also was inducted into the College of Business’s International Honor Society Beta Gamma Sigma ini the spring. He has also received a fall 2017 graduate assistantship in the Department of Accountancy.

Thimoro Cheng (biochemistry) and I Younan made the spring 2017 Dean’s List for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Hnin Lin of Myanmar (mechanical engineering) received the Honors Excellence Award for 2017–18 and wrote an article about her NIU experience for the current issue of the Honors Program’s Luminary magazine. Hnin Lin was also selected to be a Northern Ambassador.
Making it in politics, grad school and beyond

Tammy Duckworth, a 1996–97 FLAS fellow who received an honorary doctorate in Political Science from NIU in 2010, was elected the new U.S. Senator from Illinois in November 2016, beating the Republican incumbent Mark Kirk. A decorated combat veteran, Duckworth visited NIU in May to address the ROTC class of 2017.

Anies Baswedan (PhD political science, 2007), who was named a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumnus in 2009, was elected governor of Jakarta, Indonesia’s capital city, April 19.

Alexxandra Salazar (MA anthropology, 2016) is pursuing her doctorate in anthropology at the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). In continuing her Cambodia area of study, she is focusing on the reconstruction of expressive culture and cultural heritage after the Khmer Rouge to today, specifically Cambodian shadow puppet theater. Salazar has also published two articles in Collaborative Anthropologies. They are “Trauma, Memory and Representation: The Role of Collaboration in the Development of the Museum Exhibit ‘Remembering the Killing Fields,’” based on part of her MA thesis on the National Cambodian Heritage Museum in Chicago, and “Diversifying a City’s History: An Interview with Julie Bartolotto, Executive Director of the Historical Society of Long Beach, California.”

Aaron Johnson (PhD political science, 2016) is now working at the Department of Homeland Security.

Michael Hawkins (PhD history, 2009), associate professor in the Department of History at Creighton University, has been appointed associate chair of the department. Hawkins, the author of Making Moros: Imperial Historicism and American Military Rule in the Philippine Muslim South (NIU Press, 2013), studies empire, Islam and agency in Asia.

Francesca Pase (MSEd educational psychology, 2016) is working on her doctorate at the University of Georgia’s Department of Educational Theory and Practice. She recently presented “Englishization of Emotion: Fixed Experiences,” a discussion about language acquisition in Indonesia, at the May 17–20 International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois.

Lyndy Worsham (MA political science, 2005) is working on the next decennial census for the U.S. Census Bureau in Washington, DC. Worsham returned to the U.S. in 2015 after working as a research and Geographic Information Systems specialist at the Thailand Burma Border Consortium.

Philip Cerepak (MA history, 2013), now a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has received a 2017–18 Boren Fellowship to study Tagalog while working on his dissertation research. Cerepak’s dissertation topic is “A Commodity History of Coconut Oil: Insurgency, Political Economy and Global Trade.” Coconut oil, the single largest commodity in the Philippines, employs 30 percent of Filipino farmers. In tracing the industry’s development from the 1880s to the 1980s, Cerepak’s research seeks to explain the interaction of local political actors with the global market, in particular the role of coconuts in regional smuggling after World War II and the growth of armed resistance in the central and southern Philippines.

Krista Albers (MA history, 2015), donor relations coordinator at the NIU Foundation, presented “’Precedent Has Been Established’: Kennedy’s Defoliation Policy in Vietnam” at two conferences this year: the Missouri Valley History Conference and the Western Historical Association Conference.

continued on page 24
Conference March 4 in Omaha, Neb., and at the Illinois Political Science Association Conference Nov. 12 at North Park University in Chicago.

**Nay Yan Oo** (MA political science, 2015), a resident fellow at the CSIS Pacific Forum in Honolulu, has been publishing regularly since leaving NIU, most recently a July 31 op-ed piece in The Asia Times about the need for foreign-policy think tanks in Myanmar.

**Ron Leonhardt** (B.A. history/political science, 2014), who is pursuing his doctorate in history at George Washington University, who has been awarded a 2017–18 Center for Khmer Studies Fellowship. Leonhardt will be spending the year in Phnom Penh conducting dissertation research on his topic, the role of Buddhism in Cambodia under Norodom Sihanouk’s Sangkum government (1953–70).

**Kelly O’Shea** (BA anthropology, SEAS minor, 2010) is working as a research study coordinator in perinatal women’s mental health at Northwestern in Chicago. She received a master’s in public health from the University of Illinois-Chicago after her study at NIU.

In the Perks of Studying Southeast Asia Department at NIU, **E. Peter Colina** (MBA, 2013) and **Mirah Kertayuda** (MA political science, 2016) were married in August in Evanston, Ill. Kertayuda is a case worker for the State of Illinois and Colina works as an export coordinator. In their off hours, Kertayuda, whose father is NIU’s gamelan instructor Ngurah Kertayuda, and Colina also perform with Ngurah’s Chicago-based group, Indonesian Dance of Illinois.

**Outstanding in her field**

The NIU Alumni Association named **Jennifer Weidman** (MA anthropology, 2005) one of its 10 Outstanding Alumni for 2017. Announced in May, the awards recognize alumni for their professional accomplishments. Weidman received both her BA and MA from NIU and is currently the managing director and chief executive officer of Space Bangkok, which promotes resilient innovation by incorporating reflective practices in individual and organizational work.

Previously, Weidman built her career as a facilitator and training specialist as the deputy director of the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Weidman began working with Rotary in 2005 at its international headquarters in Evanston, Ill., where she helped establish the Peace Center, where she served as deputy director from 2009 to 2015. Weidman received Rotary’s Paul Harris Fellow Award, the highest staff honor given by the organization, in 2007. In 2015 she received a Distinguished Alumni award from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.
For Matt Landon (1971–2017)

By Grant Olson

On August 1, we lost a dedicated student of Southeast Asian Studies. Matt Landon’s too-short life is like a haiku that turns back upon itself, consistently reminding us of the value of Southeast Asian culture. Matt (BA political science 1992) arrived at NIU in 1989, and I met him soon after, while I was working at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. My experience in Thailand seemed to bond us. He had been exposed to Southeast Asia while in grade school, when he befriended a Lao refugee family near his home in Kansas City. It is not exactly clear if he took to them or they took him in; at any rate, Matt was one of the first members of a small wave of students we met who had been deeply affected by the presence of refugees in America. He tasted their food, attempted their language and became partially imbued with their manner and demeanor.

Matt arrived at NIU at a time of great energy and overlapping boundaries. While pursuing his BA, he fell in with a circle of guys who were studying political science and also focusing on Thai Studies. At that same time, three talented Thai women arrived via Chulalongkorn University—Eed, Ta and Jaa. These three ladies had known each other in Thailand and had been graduated in Statistics. Two of them ended up studying at NIU, while another studied in the Chicago suburbs. In the process of studying and socializing, Matt met Eed Banchanurat. They fell in love and eventually married in December of 1992.

While Eed told me their first encounter at a potluck party was really love at first sight, Matt was not one to take things for granted. I remember Matt coming to me and explaining his feelings towards Eed, who was studying for her MIS and MBA. He would turn to me and sigh, “I hope it works out.” Perhaps he thought my experience might help somehow. I would tell him to be honest and follow his heart. He once exclaimed, “Man, I hope I don’t blow it.” And then he would roll his eyes towards the heavens. He didn’t blow it. Matt had a gentle character, reminiscent of Thai-ness; and he was a straight shooter. In the end, things worked out for him and Eed, and they had two children.

Matt and I did many things together. Occasionally, to the chagrin of my neighbors, we auditioned stereo loudspeakers at my townhouse at University Village. We would pop a good wine and chat into the evening—we never ran out of things to talk about. I invited him to a disappointing Bob Dylan concert at NIU—we bemoaned how Bob pulled his hat over his face and mumbled his way through a couple of short sets. And then one day we both had a very unique opportunity.

CSEAS associate Grant Olson, who first came to work at NIU in 1988 as the editor of the Center’s Southeast Asia Publications program, has been the coordinator of the Foreign Language and Multimedia Resource Center since 1997. Early in his career, he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer for three years in Thailand.

Eed and Matt Landon
at their Washington, D.C., restaurant, Thai by Thai

continued on page 26
In 1992, Buddhist philosopher-activist Sulak Sivaraksa was visiting me at NIU. He was in exile after being charged with lèse majesté—it wasn’t the first time, and it would not be the last. An adjunct professor in anthropology heard Sulak was in town. This professor, named Jim Gillihan, was an expert in Native American lore and was the keeper of Sitting Bull’s pipe. He invited Sulak and me to a ritual that would involve smoking this peace pipe at his apartment. When I informed Sulak, he said we ought to include a student. I thought of Matt right away. When we asked Jim Gillihan, he answered with an unqualified “Yes!” Matt was in. We were each given a sprig of sage that had been harvested in South Dakota, and we were each handed a pipestone as an auspicious keepsake. So there we were, three generations, puffing on Sitting Bull’s pipe in an apartment in DeKalb, Illinois.

I was so moved I wrote the following verse. As I reread it now, the day comes back to life. I originally dedicated this poem to Sulak (now 85 years old), but now it seems appropriate to extend that dedication to Jim Gillihan (no longer with us) and to Matt (who, after a 40-month ordeal, recently succumbed to glioblastoma):

**Puffs off Sitting Bull’s Pipe**

One inviting Fall
we suspended our critical office
and were afforded the honor
of sitting in a circle
and minding our mouths
as the sage was pulled
from Sitting Bull’s pipe
The Seven Directions of herbs
purified over sage plumes
filled the void
We smoked to the thoughtless disturbing
of American Indian bones
to your “seven-year itch” as a Buddhist exile
to my being laid off in the ’90s
and to our ten-year reunion
With smoke we reconfirm how each pinch of suffering has made us stronger
has drawn us in together to this Center to admit our brotherhood
and realize how our fates and characters are all tied
to the Old Bull
Outside the whirl of Bangkok this has been my first chance
to walk across Midwestern prairies with you
and see the unimpeded way from the Eastern to the Western horizons
This time sitting with you
at an office desk or in a circle
I have the feeling I would like to work simply with you
for good
but this cannot be
I would like to be with you forever
but this cannot work
In the time being this puff of smoke

Matt was one of the best Thai language students we ever knew here at NIU. Perhaps his interest in music helped him understand the musicality of Thai tones. . . . At parties or a karaoke club he could get up and belt out a Thai song. He took important aspects of Thai language and culture to heart, and it showed.

---

I still have my pipestone and some sage. When my father passed away, I burned a bit; now I will light some of the remaining leaves for Matt.

After Matt left NIU, he went on to get a law degree at Cornell University and eventually work for the SEC. But ultimately, he gave up lawyering and returned to help Eed with a successful chain of restaurants they had established around the Washington, D.C. area, called Thai by Thai.

I am confident Matt came to understand Buddhist impermanency, and at the same time he found a way to follow his heart. He helped add momentum, *kamlang*, to a whole circle of people and events that continue to move in a fruitful direction.
Library Notes

Burmese librarians and new acquisitions

By Hao Phan

This spring we welcomed three academic librarians from Myanmar to campus as part of the Myanmar Librarian Training Consortium 2016–2017, a two-year collaborative project rotating between NIU, Arizona State University (ASU) and the University of Washington. For the past two years, the Henry Luce Foundation–funded project has sent American librarians to Myanmar to conduct workshops for library staff there and invited librarians from Myanmar to come to the U.S. for training at the three campuses.

Last summer, I conducted two workshops for 60 library staff at the University of Yangon and Yadanabon University. This past June we had the pleasure of hosting Tun Aung Kyaw of Yadanabon and Mi Mi Khin of Yangon for a month of training focusing on library digitization. Tun Aung Kyaw is a lecturer in the Department of Library and Information Studies at Yadanabon, the largest library studies program in Myanmar with more than 600 students. Mi Mi Khin is the assistant librarian at the University of Yangon Library. While here, the two librarians also visited the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs and the libraries at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Elgin Public Library, the Nichols Library in Naperville and the DeKalb Public Library. They were followed by Nu Nu San of the University of Yangon, who visited NIU July 7–15 after three months of training at ASU. While at NIU, Nu Nu San worked on collection development and helped enhance our records on the Burmese manuscripts in the Collection (her specialty).

Cham manuscript preservation

I am pleased to report that the British Library’s Endangered Archives Programme has awarded us a second grant of about $62,000 to continue the digitization of Cham manuscripts in Vietnam we began in 2014 with the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City. This goal of this one-year project is to digitize about 500 Cham manuscripts, adding to the 504 manuscripts we digitized over the course of three years beginning in 2013. These valuable and fragile manuscripts often are used as religious materials in Cham villages in Central Vietnam. The first project introduced manuscript preservation and archival techniques to local librarians, archivists and Cham scholars in Vietnam, with two local teams from Ho Chi Minh City deployed to villages to photograph the materials. The images of the manuscripts are posted online in the British Library archives. I will travel to Vietnam in August and early September to work with our local partners there to start the new digitization project.

New additions

This past year, we processed and added two new archival collections to the Hart Collection. The Kenton Clymer Papers is a collection of declassified state department correspondences to and from the Burmese government that Clymer used as primary research for his 2015 book A Delicate Relationship: The United States and Burma/Myanmar since 1945 (Cornell University Press). The George V. and Chrystal S. Smith Slide Collection contains personal photographs taken during their time in Southeast Asia.

We also received donations of the Bulletin Mensuel De Documentation and S.M Norodom Sihamoni Roi Du Cambodge, a continuing donation from the Clymers, and a book of photographs from the 80th birthday celebration of Her Majesty Queen Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk, which was added to the King Norodom Sihanouk.

Hao Phan is the curator of the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection.
One last look

Veteran political scientists and Thai specialists Ladd Thomas and Danny Unger had many things in common, one of them a great love of socializing. Avid conversationalists and endlessly curious, both could talk at length about almost any topic. They relished meeting up with colleagues, students and alumni, especially in the country both had spent decades studying. Unger and Thomas were typically in their element in this photograph taken by close friend and colleague Andrea Molnar at Unger’s wedding reception in 2006 at the Grand Sheraton Sukhumvit in Bangkok. Their passing, Thomas in October 2016 and Unger in March 2017, leaves a hole in the world of Southeast Asian studies. We will miss them both. For more about Thomas and Unger, see pages 8 and 9.

Welcome to the CSEAS donor family

You can help keep Southeast Asian Studies at NIU alive and vibrant with your contribution through the NIU Foundation. To contribute by phone, by mail or online, go to the NIU Foundation’s How to Give web page and where indicated, specify “Center for Southeast Asian Studies.” If your employer matches your charitable donations, please take a moment to also fill out that form and double your contribution. We appreciate every gift and thank you for your support.

Center for Southeast Asian Studies

S20 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:
Near a wastewater treatment plant on a 2016 research trip to Mandalay, graduate student Michael Gryzibowski (MS Geology, 2017) teaches Yadanabon University researchers how to input water chemistry data in a spreadsheet so it automatically updates in open-source geographic information system software.