Imagining Cambodia: Envisioning the future

No Friday lecture this week; next lecture Sept. 21

1. Scholarship and artistry come together this week at Cambodia Studies conference
2. Screening of Cambodian film starts 50th anniversary event countdown
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1. Scholarship and artistry come together this week at Cambodia Studies conference

This week scholars and artists from around the world will convene at the Bariera Alumni and Visitors Center for Imagining Cambodia, NIU’s first international Cambodia Studies Conference on Sept. 13–16. Organized by NIU’s Cambodia Studies Working Group and sponsored by CSEAS, the conference will welcome eminent Cambodia historian David Chandler as keynote speaker on Friday, Sept. 14, introduce Cambodian film maker Chhay Bora that same night at a public screening of Bora’s critically acclaimed film, Lost Loves, and honor renowned Cambodian-American composer Chinary Ung in a special public concert of his music at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, in Boutell Memorial Concert Hall. The work of contemporary Cambodian photographers Khvay Samnang and Lim Sokchanlina will be featured in Current Views and Actions, an exhibit at the NIU Art Museum, part of a suite of exhibits focusing on Southeast Asia. The public is invited to a reception for all of the exhibits from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Sept. 13.

More than 60 papers are scheduled to be presented during the conference, including a special-topics panel on Cambodian choreography in the O’Connell Theatre in the Stevens Building. The conference will close with a field trip to the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial in Chicago. This is the first time that a Cambodia Studies conference has been held in the United States, said CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood, noting that there have been previous conferences in France and in Australia. “NIU organized the conference because with five faculty members who work on Cambodia, we have the strongest Cambodia Studies program in the U.S.,” Ledgerwood said. “We have faculty specialists in anthropology, foreign languages, history and political science. We have regular field schools that take students to Cambodia and agreements with universities there that help bring students from Cambodia to study at NIU.”

The final conference program brings together not only scholars but performing and visual artists, a combination by design, Ledgerwood said. NIU associate music professor and percussionist Gregory Beyer is the architect behind the Saturday Chinary Ung concert, which will feature six School of Music musicians including Beyer playing works by the composer who briefly taught at NIU early in his career. Ung is now an internationally known composer whose work will be performed at The Juilliard School in New York City the week after the conference, Ledgerwood said.

“So often discussions of Cambodia focus on war and genocide and those who suffer from the aftereffects of these events,” Ledgerwood said. “The idea for the conference was to evoke new ways of imagining Cambodia that included the explosion of creativity in the visual and performing arts, as well as discussions of change in post-conflict society.”
3. Donn V. Hart Collection exhibit showcases Cambodia materials for conference
In conjunction with the Cambodia Studies exhibit, an exhibit of Cambodia materials from the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection is on display in the collection’s home on the fourth floor of Founders Memorial Library. Curator and CSEAS associate Hao Phan has assembled items from King Norodom Sihanouk donated by CSEAS associate Kenton Clymer (history) and Marlee Clymer to NIU, various CSEAS faculty publications, and field research
items from late Cambodia anthropologist May Ehibira donated by CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood (anthropology), who studied with Ehibira.

4. Thai university officials, student performers to visit NIU
A high-level delegation from Khon Kaen University, a public research university in northeastern Thailand, is set to arrive at NIU Sept. 18 to hold meetings with administrators from NIU’s College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS), the Center for Governmental Studies, the Division of Public Administration and CSEAS, ending with the signing a memorandum of understanding with NIU. Coordinated by the Division of International Programs and CSEAS, the visit will conclude with a performance by a group of fine arts students from Khon Kaen at 8 p.m. Sept. 20 in the School of Music Recital Hall. They will showcase northeastern Thailand folk music and dance. The performance is free and open to the public. The delegation will depart NIU Sept. 21 and travel to the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO, before returning to Thailand. The NIU visit was prompted by a meeting with alumnus Tatchalerm Sudhipongpracha (PhD political science, 2012), now a lecturer at Khon Kaen, during a visit to Thailand this past summer by CLAS Dean Christopher McCord and Associate Provost for International Programs and CSEAS associate Deborah Pierce.

“Opening up a new cooperative relationship with Khon Kaen University in northeast Thailand promises to broaden and deepen our involvement in that nation,” Pierce said. “It’s exciting to see how one very satisfied alumnus can energize our strategic global commitments, as well. That underlines for me the great importance of connecting with all our international students during their studies here at NIU.”

5. More than 100 papers to be presented at October Burma Studies conference
More than 100 papers have been submitted in a wide variety of fields, including anthropology, art history, environment, health, history, literature, linguistics, music, political science, popular culture, religions, and area studies, to be presented during the 10th International Burma Studies Conference at the Holmes Student Center. Panels and papers will be devoted primarily to new research, including recent events in Burma. The conference will also feature cultural events, including the exhibit, “Music for the Divine: Musical instruments and Traditions of Burma,” curated by Center for Burma Studies Director and CSEAS associate Catherine Raymond, at the NIU Art Museum; the world premiere of “Five Pools,” an
original work for Karen bronze drums by NIU associate music professor Gregory Beyer; and the public screening Oct. 5 of the 2011 film, They Call It Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain, with remarks by the film’s director, Robert Lieberman. The conference is being presented by the Center for Burma Studies, the trustees of the Burma Studies Foundation and the Burma Studies Group. It is co-sponsored by NIU, CSEAS and the NIU Foundation. For details, see the conference website, email bsc2012@niu.edu or call the NIU Center for Burma Studies at 815-753-0512.

6. Save the dates: Fulbright deadline, Study Abroad Fair and more
   - Sept. 21: Deadline to submit 2013–14 applications for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program for graduating college seniors, graduate students, young professionals and artists to study abroad or to be an English teaching assistant for one academic year. Contact coordinator Jane Hathaway at the School of Music or Pam Rosenberg at International Programs. Details available online.
   - Sept. 27: 20th annual Study Abroad Fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Duke Ellington Ballroom, Holmes Student Center. For more information, email niuabroad@niu.edu.
   - Oct. 25: Screening of Mr. Cao Goes to Washington, with remarks by the film’s director, Leo Chiang, 7 p.m., Room 100, Fay-Cooper Cole Hall. Sponsored by the Southeast Asia Club and the Department of Political Science. A CSEAS 50th Anniversary event.
   - Nov. 12–16: International Education Week sponsored by the Division of International Programs.
   - Nov. 16: CSEAS 50th Anniversary Fall Lecture by David Steinberg, Georgetown University professor of Asian Studies, noon, Sky Room, Holmes Student Center. An International Education Week event. Sponsored by the Division of International Programs.

7. Focusing on Thai or Lao studies? Two SEA conferences in the area coming up
   - Council on Thai Studies Conference, Oct. 26–27, Ohio University, Athens, OH
     The Council on Thai Studies (COTS) will mark its 40th anniversary at this conference. COTS was founded at NIU in 1972 to bring together Thai specialists in the Midwest once a year. This is the first conference at Ohio; previous conferences have been held at NIU and University of Wisconsin-Madison. The keynote speech will be given by Thai historian Charnvit Kasetsiri, former rector of Thammasat University. The guest lecture will be given
by Chusak Pattarakulvanit, associate professor in Thammasat’s Department of English Language and Literature. Conference organizer Jeffrey Shane advises making hotel reservations early at the Ohio University Inn or other area hotels as there is a large university event also scheduled for that weekend. Register before Sept. 25 to receive discounted rate. The conference is being sponsored by Ohio University Libraries, the OU Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the Contemporary History Institute, the Southeast Asian Student Association, and the Thai Student Association. For details, see the conference program online or email Shane at shane@ohio.edu.

4th International Lao Studies Conference, April 19–21, 2013, Madison, WI
The Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the San Francisco-based Center for Lao Studies are inviting papers for the 4th International Conference on Lao Studies. Abstracts due: Oct. 31. For details on article submission and registration, see the conference website or call 608-263-1755.

8. Burnish your resume: Sign up for a Southeast Asian Studies minor
Adding a minor to an undergraduate degree is one way to pull a resume up to the top of the pile. In a global marketplace, an internationally focused minor can open even more doors. To learn about the center’s Southeast Asian Studies minor program, stop by the center located in Pottenger House, 520 College View Court, and see outreach coordinator Julie Lamb. Email her at jlamb@niu.edu or call her at 815-753-1595.

9. Conferences, calls for papers and workshops
- 61st Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Sept. 21–23, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. Theme: Global Education. Regional conference for Association of Asian Studies. Call for papers. For details, see conference website.
- Council on Thai Studies Conference, Oct. 26–27, Ohio University, Athens, OH. Conference will mark the 40th anniversary of COTS. For details, email Jeffrey Shane at shane@ohio.edu.
- 9th International Conference on the Philippines, Oct. 28–30, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI. For details, contact asiansc@msu.edu.
- Religion in Southeast Asia, Nov. 17–20, Chicago. Annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion. For details, see conference website.
- Salvage and Salvation: Religion, Disaster Relief, and Reconstruction in Asia, Nov. 22–23, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. What dynamics are in play at the intersection of religion and disaster relief in Asia? Call for papers. For details, see conference website.
- 10th ASEAN Inter-University Conference on Social Development, Dec. 10–12, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Theme: Southeast Asia and Human Insecurities: Causes, Costs and Challenges. Call for papers. Abstracts due: Oct. 30. For details, see conference website.
12th International Graduate Student Conference on the Asia Pacific Region, Feb. 14–16, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI. Call for papers. Deadline: Oct. 15. Limited number of travel grants available. For details, see conference website.

Association for Asian Studies, March 21–24, San Diego, CA. Call for papers is closed; registration opens in September. See the conference website.


Thailand in the World: 12th International Conference on Thai Studies, April 22–24, 2014, University of Sydney, Australia. To request being added to the conference email list or for other information, email brenda.kranz@sydney.edu.au.

8th International Convention for Asia Scholars (ICAS), June 24–27, Macao. Call for institutional panel proposals. Deadline: Sept. 15. Submit to ICAS 8 Secretariat. For details about ICAS 8, see the conference website.

10. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- “Remembering the Killing Fields” exhibit is on display at the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. The Cambodian Association of Illinois also holds free Cambodian music and dance lessons.
- The Indonesian Consulate General in Chicago offers free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes on weekends. For details, see consulate website.
- Friends of the Gamelan will perform a concert of traditional and modern Javanese gamelan music at 2 p.m., Oct. 6, in the A.F. Siebert Chapel at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. The concert is free and open to the public. For other area gamelan events, see the Friends website.

Persons with a disability who may need assistance at any CSEAS event may contact office manager Nancy Schuneman at 815-753-1771 or nschunem@niu.edu. To no longer receive this bulletin, please reply to this e-mail with a request to remove your name. Thank you.