Chalermsee and Grant Olson will present “In Search of a Southern Thai Buddhist Artist, the Illusory Khemananda” in this week’s Friday lecture. Details below.

A sandy path, a spiritual journey

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Go green! There’s money for study out there

A paid year in Indonesia? A six-week fellowship in Siem Reap, Cambodia? Advanced immersion language training? Find funding for research, fellowships, language study, conference travel, and more in our Money for Study listings below. Check it out. Deadlines to apply in February with some later in March and April.
1. This week’s lecture: In search of an illusory Thai self NEW
CSEAS associates Grant Olson (Foreign Languages & Literatures) and Chalermsee (Ete) Olson (University Libraries) will present “In Search of a Southern Thai Buddhist Artist, the Illusory Khemananda” at noon Friday, Feb. 26, in Room 100 Campus Life. In the early 1990s a tenacious reporter got Thai Buddhist artist Kovit Khemananda to sit down long enough to record Kovit’s autobiography, which resulted in the 2007 book (in Thai) entitled A Sandy Path near the Lake: In Search of the Illusory Khemananda. The story starts out as an ethnographic tale of Southern Thai life, demonstrating Kovit’s powers of observation and keen memory, according to Grant Olson. “Kovit’s observations then turn into an aesthetic sense and eventually lead him on a spiritual quest within Thailand’s borders and beyond,” Olson said. “Kovit says that he wants what Lord Buddha wanted; and his youthful wanderlust is transformed into seeking the truth about life. Our presentation focuses on trying to find the elusive Kovit, his own story of an illusory (Thai) self and the challenges of translating his tale into English.” The Olsons’ edited translation of A Sandy Path Near the Lake was published in 2015 by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. To order an Indonesian lunch, submit an online request by 6 p.m. Thursday at CSEAS Brown Bag Order. Orders must be cancelled online by 10 a.m. Friday. Cost is $5 for students and $6 for faculty, staff and others. Payments may be made in cash or by check. For lunch details, e-mail cseasbrownbag@gmail.com.

2. Center associates update: Kudos for a Fulbright NEW
* Congratulations to Jui-Ching Wang (School of Music), who has been selected as a 2016–17 Fulbright Scholar. Wang will spend ten months in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to study traditional Javanese children’s singing games, dolanan anak. “I will be looking at the development of dolanan anak and its various roles in three periods, pre-World War II, post-World War II, and the twenty-first century,” said Wang, who led last summer’s Exploring the Arts in Bali study abroad program. Wang is hosting Bali gamelan master Made Lasmawan at NIU for two days in April. He will be presenting the April 8 Friday lecture, “Teaching Balinese Culture Through Local Resources,” to be held in Room 173 of the Music Building.

3. Help wanted: Seeking graduate assistant for SEAS 225 NEW
CSEAS is accepting graduate student applications to be the Teaching Assistant for the center’s undergraduate Southeast Asia survey course, SEAS 225, for the 2016–17 academic year. The assistantship is a full-time (20 hours per week) position; the class is taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Most lectures will be given by NIU’s Southeast Asia faculty in a variety of disciplines. Specific duties include: Develop course syllabus and assessment modules;
grade all exams, papers and assignments; keep office hours for student tutoring and guidance on lecture materials; post course material on Blackboard; teach some classes, including overview lectures and presentations relevant to his/her discipline and research interests. Applicants should be advanced in their studies (minimum two years) in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and must have knowledge of or experience in Southeast Asia, in addition to strong organizational, written and communication skills. Previous TA experience preferable but not essential. Preference will be given to those in the process of completing the graduate certificate in Southeast Asian studies. Position pays monthly stipend plus full tuition waiver. All materials, including a graduate assistantship application, cover letter, resume, and two reference contacts, must be received by Office Manager Rita Miller by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 15. Send to CSEAS, Northern Illinois University, 520 College View Court, DeKalb, IL 60115, email to ram@niu.edu, or FAX to 815-753-1776.

4. Notes from all over: Outreach at Triton; remembering F. K. Lehman (Chit Hlaing) NEW

Outreach Coordinator Julien Ehrenkönig took the Center’s Southeast Asia Roadshow to Triton Community College Feb. 15 in River Grove, Ill., as part of Triton’s World Music Series. More than 60 students stopped by the CSEAS table at the event to sample Burmese, Indonesian, Tagalog and Thai languages with Foreign Language Teaching Assistants Thandar Swe, Wina Tirtapradja, Marie Gianina Concepcion Decano and Piansin Pinchai. More than 100 students attended the event, which also featured performances by the Chicago-based Thai Chi Ensemble, presenting regional Thai folk music, and Red Octagon, a Chicago artist performing hip-hop versions of traditional Thai music. . . . Political science doctoral candidate Iqra Anugrah appeared online Feb. 18 with “A Challenge from Below? Social Movements against Oligarchy” in the University of Melbourne’s Indonesian Studies blog. Anugrah is currently in Australia during his research year abroad. . . . CSEAS joins the Center for Burma Studies in mourning the loss of distinguished Asia scholar and University of Illinois anthropologist emeritus F.K. Lehman (Chit Hlaing), who died peacefully in his sleep Feb. 9. The Center for Burma Studies, which devoted a special section of the Journal of Burma Studies (vol. 15.1) to Lehman, remembers him in a special page on its website. Those wishing to share a memory or photograph to be posted on this page may email Burma Collections Assistant Markie Striegel at mstriegel@niu.edu. Personal remembrances by former students also were collected in a 2007 booklet by Prof. John B. Gatewood of Lehigh University and have been made available on Gatewood’s website.

5. Student researchers sought for Karen oral history project

The Pick Museum of Anthropology is seeking undergraduate students to join a research team as full-time paid interns working on an oral history project documenting the experiences of Burmese Karen refugees living in northern Illinois. Students must live on campus during the June 13–Aug. 5 program. Contact Rachel Drochter at rdrochter@niu.edu or call 815-753-2011.
6. Get your paper on! Abstracts due this week for spring student conference

Abstracts are due Feb. 25 this week for the Southeast Asia Club’s 2016 spring Southeast Asia Student conference Saturday, March 26, in Room 100 Campus Life. The conference theme is “From City to Village: Urbanization & Southeast Asia.” Papers may be submitted by graduate and undergraduate students on related topics or any relevant to the region. The conference keynote speaker will be University of Leeds political scientist Duncan McCargo.

7. SEAYLP and PYLP want you: Be a host family for spring SEA exchange programs

CSEAS and the International Training Office (ITO) are actively seeking host families for two spring Southeast Asia exchange programs sponsored by the US State Department. CSEAS is looking for 33 families to act as hosts April 9–17 for fifty high school students and ten adult leaders from ten Southeast Asian countries participating in the April 5–30 session of the US State Department’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP). Students are placed in pairs and adults may be placed as singles. Host families provide a bed for each participant, breakfast each day and most dinners, all meals during any weekend days at home, and transportation to and from class sessions at NIU. Host family orientation is scheduled for 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 4, in the Holmes Student Center. Host family applications may be submitted online; see the right column on the SEAYLP website. Applications due by March 18. For details, contact host family coordinator Liz Denius at 815-753-1901 or email edenius@niu.edu.

ITO is also seeking host families in April for the Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP), which brings young people and adult leaders from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and surrounding provinces in the Philippines to NIU for four weeks under the auspices of the International Training Office and direction of anthropologist Susan Russell and ITO Director Lina Ong. The home stay dates for PYLP are April 17–30. Contact NIU home stay coordinator Leslie Shive for details at lshive@niu.edu.

8. Burma Studies, Thai Studies conferences set for October at NIU

NEW Scholars from around the world will convene at NIU Oct. 7–9 for the 2016 International Burma Studies Conference 2016 and Oct. 28–29 for the Council on Thai Studies (COTS) 2016 meeting. The Burma conference invites proposals for individual papers or entire panels. Deadline to submit proposals: April 15. Prospective participants must submit a title and 150–250 word abstract via attached Word document or pasted into an email (include name, affiliation, and contact information). Panel organizers should submit abstracts and participant information. Email to
burmastudies2016@gmail.com. Accepted participants and panel organizers will be notified on or before May 15. For details, see the conference website. Abstract deadline and conference details for the COTS meeting to be announced.

9. Field Museum offers paid internships with Philippine collections

Go behind the scenes with one of two paid summer internships at The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago to work with its Philippines Heritage Collections. Interns will work closely with the Digital Co-Curation Team and in the Chicago Filipino-American community on various projects, including researching artifacts related to hunting, fishing and food preparation as well as assist with co-curation community events. For more information and to apply on the Regenstein Pacific Collections internship or the Women in Science: Digital Co-Curation Philippine Heritage Collections internship, see here.

10. Distance Vietnamese to be added to fall 2016 SEA language lineup

Beginning Vietnamese will be added to NIU’s SEA language and literature lineup in fall 2016. FLST 103-104 will be offered as a distance-learning course through the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It will be taught by a UW instructor but NIU students will receive credit from NIU. If interested, contact CSEAS Director Judy Ledgerwood at 815-753-1771 or by email at cseas@niu.edu (put Vietnamese in the subject line).

11. The match game: Apply for CSEAS match to Graduate School travel funding

CSEAS will match up to $250 in Graduate School travel grants for students traveling to out-of-town (or out-of-country) conferences to present. If you will be receiving Graduate School travel funding, contact CSEAS Office Manager Rita Miller about the CSEAS match. If you are considering applying (next 2015–16 deadline is March 21), you must have completed one year of school with 3.5 GPA or above. See Graduate School website for details on its travel funding; submit applications to Dean, Graduate School, 223 Adams Hall.

12. Save the dates: Due dates, chai tea and more

- Feb. 25: Abstracts due for Southeast Asia Club spring student conference
- Feb. 25: Chai Chat, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Room 100, Campus Life. Sponsored by International Student and Faculty Office, Asian American Center, ELS-DeKalb, and the Counseling and Consultation Services office. NEW
- March 18: Host-family applications due for Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program. Email edenius@niu.edu for details. NEW
- March 26: Southeast Asia Club spring student conference, From City to Village: Urbanization and SEA. Keynote speaker: University of Leeds political scientist Duncan McCargo.
April 9: “Religious Minorities and Pluralism in Asia” workshop, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Heritage Room, Holmes Student Center. Keynote address (9:30 a.m.) by Dr. Jacques Bertrand, University of Toronto. NEW

April 13: Indonesian teaching assistant Rahmi Hartati will demonstrate how to make nasi kuning, Indonesian yellow rice, from noon to 1 p.m. in DuSable 328 for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures brown bag lunch series.

13. Public health research opportunity in Indonesia or Myanmar
Tomoyuki Shibata (Public Health), executive director of the Global Environmental Health Lab, is making plans to take students this summer to Myanmar (mid-June to mid-July) and Indonesia (mid-July to mid-August) to participate in field research projects involving water quality and public health. For details on costs, college credits and other information about the projects, email Shibata at tshibata@niu.edu.

14. Applications open for summer study abroad in Laos
The Center for Lao Studies for five-week Study Abroad in Laos (SAIL) program, which will be held in Vientiane, Laos from June 27–31 and offers up to 10 hours of NIU credit. During the five-week program, students will take language and cultural lessons at the Lao-American College with private instruction by professors from the National University of Laos. Classroom time is split between language lessons and a newly updated Lao History and Culture course. Participants have the opportunity to augment their academics with cultural trips throughout the area and volunteering with various organizations. As part of this summer’s SAIL program, participants will be able to join the 5th International Conference on Lao Studies July 8–10 at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand. Cost is $2,760. Scholarships of up to $500 are available. Deadline for funding: March 15. Deadline for program: April 1.

15. Getting it all on paper
Graduate students, here are two opportunities to send your stellar scholarship to be prized and published.

Explorations: A Graduate Journal of Southeast Asian Studies
- Call for papers for this peer-reviewed forum for graduate students to present disciplinary and interdisciplinary research on any topic related to Southeast Asia. Deadline to submit: Extended to March 11. For details, see journal website. NEW

AAS Southeast Asia Council
- 2017 Pattana Kitiarsa Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper: Recognizes emerging scholarship in SEA studies. Papers invited of length and scope to be presented on AAS
Deadline to submit: April 3. Submit papers and proof of student status, or questions, to David Biggs at biggsbiggs@gmail.com. $500 prize and certificated to be presented at 2017 AAS in Toronto.

16. Burnish your resume with Southeast Asian Studies
Add a Southeast Asian Studies minor to a bachelor’s degree or a graduate certificate to an advanced degree and pull your resumé to the top of the pile. To learn more, visit the CSEAS website or stop by CSEAS at 520 College View Court. Undergraduates may make an appointment with Outreach Coordinator Julien Ehrenkönig at ehrenkonig@niu.edu; graduate students should contact Assistant Director Eric Jones at iloveroti@gmail.com.

17. Money for study
NIU

- **Student Engagement Fund grants:** Grants available to undergraduate students for research or service, including study abroad, conference travel and mentored research or service learning projects. Guidelines are available online. **Deadline for fall 2016: March 15.**
- **Summer Research Opportunities Program:** Funding for undergraduates to conduct paid, faculty-mentored research while living on campus during the summer. **Deadline to apply: Feb. 26.** For details, see website.
- **Graduate School Travel Grants:** Students invited to submit proposals for 2015–16. **Next deadline to apply: March 21.** One year of school completed with 3.5 GPA or above. See website for details. Submit applications to Dean, Graduate School, 223 Adams Hall. Matching funds available through CSEAS.
- **Graduate School Travel to Conduct Research Grants:** Students in good standing invited to submit proposals for research travel planned for May 15 to Sept. 1, 2016. Grants up to $500 will be awarded. Must have approved thesis or dissertation committee on file (PhD students must have passed comprehensive examinations). **Applications due to the Graduate School: April 1** (departments earlier; contact for deadline). Email Dana Hughes at dhughes@niu.edu.

Columbia University

- **Postdoctoral Fellowship:** Weatherhead Institute invites applications for 2016-17 Borg Fellowship in Southeast Asian Studies. Must have completed PhD between July 2014 and July 2016. **Deadline to apply: Feb. 25.** For details, see website.

Chulalongkorn University Institute of Thai Studies

- **Thai studies scholarships:** Funding for graduate students and young scholars (ENITS and ENITAS grants). **Deadline to apply: Feb. 29.** For details, see website.

UCLA

- **Summer Advanced Indonesian Abroad Program:** Immersion language program at Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana in Central Java. Funding available through Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad. Qualified students may use FLAS funding from their home institutions. **Deadline to apply: Feb. 29.** For details, see website.

ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

- **Postdoctoral Fellowships in SEA Studies:** Must have completed PhD no earlier than August 2011. **Deadline to apply: Feb. 29.** For details, see website.
Center for Khmer Studies

- **Junior Resident Fellowships:** CKS and the American Research Center in Cambodia offers six-week fellowships to five US, five Cambodian, and five French undergraduate students July 1–Aug. 10 in Siem Reap. **Deadline to apply: April 1.** For details, see [website](#).

US Department of Education

- **Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad:** Six- to 12-month month fellowships for PhD students in foreign languages and area studies, FY 2016. Apply by late spring (check [website](#) for application availability and other info).

Rotary International

- **Rotary Peace Fellowships:** Fully paid fellowships for master’s degree study offered at six universities worldwide, including Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the US. Applications for 2017–18 fellowships now available. **Deadline to submit through local Rotary district: May 31.** See [website](#).

18. Job/internship opportunities

Duke University

- **Program Coordinator:** Provides support for Southeast Asia Research Group and Asian/Pacific Studies Institute. Bachelor’s degree required; master’s degree desirable. Proficiency in East or Southeast Asian language preferred. Apply immediately. See [job details](#) here.

Globaljobs.org

- **Job/internship opportunities:** Turn area studies into an internship or a career. See job listings at NGOs, think tanks, government, and private-sector employers. See [website](#).

Chinese Mutual Aid Association

- **Interns:** Pan-Asian social service organization accepting candidates for interns for business development, grant writing and workforce development and outreach liaison duties. Contact Michelle White at michellew@chinesemutualaid.org or 773-784-2900. See [website](#).

US Department of State

- **Student internship program:** Internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students at Washington headquarters and US embassies, consulates and missions worldwide. See [program website](#).

Room to Read

- **Positions open:** San Francisco-based organization that helps develop literacy skills among primary and secondary school students. See [website](#).

Asia Society

- **Career opportunities:** Internships and jobs posted regularly on [website](#).

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

- Jobs listed under [Opportunities](#) tab of ASEAN website.

Devex: Do Good. Do It Well

- International aid and development jobs in 1,000 agencies, companies and NGOs in 100 countries. See [website](#).

DevMetJOBS.org

- International development jobs and consulting opportunities. See [website](#).

Hess International Educational Group

- **Teach English across Asia:** Taiwan-based organization offers free training, benefits, and flex scheduling. Email NIU alum Derek Wright at derek.wright@hess.com.tw or see [website](#).
Idealist.org

- Privately funded website offers searchable database of nonprofit international jobs and volunteer opportunities. See the Idealist website.

ReliefWeb

- Specialized digital service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs that posts jobs regularly. See website.

World Health Organization

- Global health agency in the United Nations System encourages online applications for potential employment. See WHO website.

19. Conferences, calls for papers and workshops

- Cornell University Southeast Asia Program Graduate Student Conference, March 11–13, Ithaca, NY. Conference theme: (Re)creating Currents in Southeast Asia. See conference website.
- 6th International Conference on Hmong Studies, March 18–19, Concordia University, St. Paul. Contact Lee Pao Xiong at Center for Hmong Studies at xiong@csp.edu.
- Association for Asian Studies, March 31–April 3, Seattle. See conference website.
- 1st Graduate Student Conference for Southeast Asia Research, April 14–15, University of British Columbia. Some travel subsidies available. For details, email csear.grad@gmail.com.
- Heritage as Aid and Diplomacy in Asia, May 26–28, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands. See conference website.
- 1st International Graduate Symposium on Thai Studies, June 16–17, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Organized by Thai Studies Center and Research Section. Call for papers. Abstracts due: April 18. Email to thaistudies.grad.symposium@gmail.com. See conference website.
- AAS-in-Asia, June 24–27, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan. See conference website.
- 5th International Conference on Lao Studies: Lao PDR in the ASEAN Context, July 8–10, Thammasat University, Bangkok. See conference website.
- International Burma Studies Conference, Oct. 9–16, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL. Call for papers and panels. Abstracts and proposals due: April 15. For information, see website.

20. Area cultural opportunities

- Go behind the scenes of the Philippine Collections at the Field Museum. Contact the museum’s co-curation team to make arrangements at cocuration.phillippines@fieldmuseum.org. To learn more about the museum’s Philippines work, see the co-curation team’s newsletter.
- Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute of Chicago offers classes in Thai language, dance and music among other programs. See website for details or phone 312-725-0640.
- “Remembering the Killing Fields” exhibit 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 in Chicago offers free Saturday classes: Indonesian language classes at 10:30 a.m. (intermediate) and 1 p.m. (children’s class); Indonesian traditional dance, 2 to 4 p.m.; and Javanese gamelan, 4 to 6 p.m. All classes held at the Indonesian Cultural Center, 711 W. Grand Avenue. Call 312-920-1880, ext. 104/105, or email icc@indonesiachicago.org. Also see the consulate’s Facebook page.

Join the CSEAS donor family!

You can help keep Southeast Asian studies program at NIU vibrant with your contribution through the NIU Foundation. To contribute online, go to the Donate Now tab at the NIU Foundation website. Under Designations, select “college or universitywide program,” then write in “Center for Southeast Asian Studies.” If your employer matches your charitable donations, please take a moment to fill out that form. We appreciate every gift. Thank you!