Notes from the Director. Laurie J. Sears, History

Walking in the surprisingly sunny Seattle morning and listening to my iPod do its shuffle thing with songs by Bob Dylan and Otis Redding, I was struck as the haunting notes of the Cambodian pin peat flute played for a few minutes. Then the sounds of American soldiers filtered in, a commander giving orders, a translator turning those orders into something in Khmer, muffled voices, the sounds of a huge explosion, people screaming, and then a slow fade out. It was a cut from the PraCh CD Dalama: The Lost Chapter where the young Cambodian American rap artist tells the stories of Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge years. It made me reflect, in this year of our success in renewing our DOE Title VI funding for another four years, on our duty as Southeast Asianists to the local, regional, and national communities that we serve. America’s current war with Iraq is not really comparable to America’s encounter with Viet Nam although many have argued otherwise. In Viet Nam, America was fighting a seasoned nationalist movement that had been working and planning and fighting for thirty-five years to attain its freedom. If anything, the war in Iraq today is more like America’s destabilization of Cambodia through large-scale bombing that created the conditions for the Khmer Rouge take-over, and condemned Cambodia to ten or more years of chaos, genocide, and starvation.

What is our duty to our students, to our government, we who have the specialist knowledges of the world outside of America’s borders? We learn languages and study histories and cultures so that we can teach those languages, histories, and cultures to new generations of students in the hopes of producing what today is called “global citizens.” Are we doing our job as best we can? We feel alarmed when we hear the news that came out of the bi-partisan report on the Iraq War that only 6 people in the American Embassy in Iraq have mastery over the Arabic language as it reminds us how few Americans knew either Khmer or Vietnamese when the U.S. decided to invade those countries to protect America in the Cold War period. These questions will guide the next four years of SEAC’s programming as we strive to spread the knowledge we have of the languages, cultures, and histories of Southeast Asia to our students, the wider Seattle and Washington state communities, and throughout North America. Thus we celebrate our success in a measured and reflective way in this time of war, aware of the responsibilities that such funding brings.

(Continued on page 3)
Beyond Teleologies: Alternative Voices and Histories in Colonial Viet Nam

University of Washington campus, March 1-4, 2007

The Southeast Asia Center will host a series of workshops over the next two years entitled “Alternative Voices and Histories in Viet Nam: Colonial Modernities and Post-colonial Narratives.” The first workshop, “Beyond Teleologies: Alternative Voices and Histories in Colonial Viet Nam,” will be held on the University of Washington campus, March 1-4, 2007. The first two days of the workshop will be free and open to the public.

Workshop Program (Public Events)

Thursday, March 1, 2007 1:00pm – Opening remarks, Christoph Giebel (UW History/JSIS) and Judith Henchy (UW Libraries) Suzzallo/Allen Library, Petersen Room

1:30 - 5:15pm – Panel 1: Counter-narratives

Bradley Davis, Univ. of Washington-Seattle “Subversive Technology: Chinese Bandits, Telegraphs, and the Plot to Overthrow the Qing Empire from French Tonkin, 1891-1924.” Comments by Paul Sager, NYU

David Del Testa, Bucknell University “Forgotten Stories of Deviance: Vietnam’s Colonial-era Railroad Workers and the Construction of a Revolutionary Heritage.” Comments by Bradley Davis, UW-Seattle


Gerard Sasges, Univ. of California-Berkeley/Univ. of California Education Abroad Program Viet Nam Pam Nam Study Center “Indigenous representation is hostile to all monopolies.” Pham Quynh and the end of the alcohol monopoly in colonial Viet Nam.” Comments by Sarah Whitney Womack, UV

Sarah Whitney Womack, Univ. of Virginia “Beyond Resistance, Before the Revolution: Towards a History of Failure for the Many Vietnams.” Comments by Gerard Sasges, UC-Berkeley

Janet Hoskins, Univ. of Southern California “A Religious Vision of the Nation and Its Pantheon: Caodaist Perspectives on Decolonizing French Indochina.” Comments by Pascal Bourdeaux, Paris Sorbonne

Pascal Bourdeaux, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris Sorbonne “Interpretive essay on the ‘Hoa H/to Revolution.’” Comments by Janet Hoskins, USC

5:45 - 6:45pm – Reception
Petersen Room, Suzzallo/Allen Library

7:00pm, Keynote address – Patricia Pelley, Texas Tech University, Kane Hall 220 “Twentieth-Century Centricities: Reflections on the Field of Vietnamese Studies.”

Friday, March 2, 2007 8:30am – Light breakfast
Petersen Room, Suzzallo/Allen Library

8:45 - 12:30 – Panel 2: Colonial Modernities and Representations

Philippe Peycam, Center for Khmer Studies “From the Social to the Political: 1920s Colonial Saigon as a Space of Possibilities in Vietnamese Consciousness.” Comments by Pham Hong Tung, VNU, Ha Noi


Judith Henchy, Univ. of Washington-Seattle “Phan Van Hum theorizing history: teleology, aesthetics and dialectical thinking in 1930s Viet Nam.” Comments by Philippe Peycam, Center for Khmer Studies, Inc.

Caroline Herbelin, Centre de Recherche sur l’Extrême-Orient, Paris IV Sorbonne “Architects of the fine Art school of Indochina: the question of modernity in Vietnamese architecture.” Comments by Hazel Hahn, Seattle University


Pham Hong Tung, Viet Nam National University, Ha Noi “Presentation and Interpretation of Colonial History in Vietnamese and French History Textbooks.” Comments by Judith Henchy, UW-Seattle


1:45 - 5:30pm – Panel 3: Bodies and Their Social and Cultural Contexts

Liam C. Kelley, Univ. of Hawai’i-Manoa “Spirit Writing in Late-Imperial/Colonial Vietnam.” Comments by Micheline Lessard, Univ. of Ottawa

Trung Nguyen, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison “Marginalizing Practices: Bureaucracy, Ethnography, and Becoming Chinese in Colonial Vietnam.” Comments by Liam C. Kelley, UH-Manoa

Micheline Lessard, Univ. of Ottawa “’This Ignoble Traffic’: The Trade in Vietnamese Women and Children During the Period of French Colonial Rule, 1885-1945.” Comments by Trung Nguyen, UW-Madison

Michele Thompson, Southern Connecticut State University “The Implications of Gia Truy/n: Social Class within the Healing Community in Vietnam.” Comments by Peter Zinoman, UC-Berkeley

Peter Zinoman, Univ. of California-Berkeley “From Political Metaphor to Social Problem: Deviant Sexuality in the Writing of Vu Trong Phung” Comments by Michele Thompson, Southern Connecticut State University

Erica J. Peters, Independent Scholar, Mountain View, CA “Culinary Controversies in Colonial Cochinchina.” Comments by Shawn McHale, GWU

Shawn McHale, George Washington University “Cannibalism and Race Transformation in a Mekong Delta at War, 1945-54.” Comments by Erica J. Peters, Independent Scholar
The past year also brought sadness to SEAC with the passing of Professor Emeritus Daniel S. Lev (1933-2006). Dan Lev has been at the heart of the work of the field of Southeast Asian studies at the UW, throughout the U.S., and in Southeast Asia as well. He was best known for his cutting edge work in the fields of Indonesian law, Islamic law, human rights, and comparative politics. But Dan was also known and respected for his principled stands on the burning issues of his day. Dan’s last work on the life and career of Indonesian human rights activist Yap Thiam Hien will be published posthumously. He was a stunning model for us all on how to be a committed area studies scholar and how to share his knowledge with students, with government committees, with the military and, most of all, with the many Indonesian and Southeast Asian scholars and students to whom he devoted his life’s work. Dan Lev was beloved by his many students and colleagues and we deeply miss his brilliance, his warmth, and his laughter.

This past summer SEAC hosted former Dean of Communications Eddie Kuo of Nanyang University, Singapore. SEAC faculty met with Professor Kuo to plan new collaborative programs between UW and Nanyang University. Events this year have included the visit of former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim as the Severnys-Ravenholt lecturer for 2006, Director of Focus on the Global South Walden Bello, and this October SEAC will host Walker-Ames Lecturer Chandra Muzaffar of Malaysia, President of the International Movement for a Just World. Visitors scheduled for this spring include Malaysian poet and critic Muhammad Haji Salleh, Sheila Coronel, Director of the Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism at Columbia School of Journalism, science and technology studies scholar and historian of science Warwick Anderson, Chair of the Department of Medical History at University of Wisconsin, Madison, Nguyen Qui Duc, writer and former host of NPR’s Pacific Time, and award-winning feminist anthropologist Anna Tsing, Professor of Anthropology at University of California, Santa Cruz.

The Daniel S. Lev Memorial Fund

Daniel S. Lev (1933-2006) was a pioneering scholar in the fields of Indonesian Legal Reform, Islamic Law, Human Rights, and Comparative Politics. His books, The Transition to Guided Democracy: Indonesian Politics, 1957-59 and Islamic Courts in Indonesia, are classics in the field.

Aside from his own research and writing, Dan was particularly devoted to developing the library collections at the UW Libraries and at the Center for Indonesian Law and Policy Studies (PSHK) in Jakarta (newly named the Daniel S. Lev Law Library). He contributed thousands of books, manuscripts, interviews, and other materials to both collections. Hoping to commemorate and continue the work that dominated so much of Dan’s life, the University of Washington’s Asian Law Center, Suzzallo and Allen Libraries, and Southeast Asia Center have associated with the PSHK to set up a non-profit organization, The Daniel S. Lev Memorial Fund. In its first effort, the new organization is collaborating with the UW and the PSHK libraries to catalogue and digitize Dan’s donated materials.

In the future, the Fund intends to support faculty, staff and student exchanges between the PSHK and the UW and, more generally, to support research collaborations in the fields of Islamic law, law reform, human rights, women in the law, and collections development, all areas of Dan’s interest.

Please send contributions to the Daniel S. Lev Memorial Fund in care of Alice Stokke, Asian Law Center, the Law School, Box 353020, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.
SEAC Welcomes New Filipino Lecturer Jiedson Domigpe

We are pleased to welcome Jiedson "Jed" Domigpe, who joined us this year as a lecturer of Filipino in the Department of American Ethnic Studies. Enrollments currently include 31 students in introductory, four students in intermediate, and eight students in advanced. Professor Domigpe is spearheading the first Filipino newsletter on campus featuring students’ writings in both Filipino and English. He hopes the newsletter will create a medium for the discussion of issues relevant to shared Filipino heritage and that it will create a greater sense of community among Filipinos and Filipino-Americans around the UW campus. He also hopes that the newsletter will help to generate interest in creating a Filipino scholarship program at UW-Seattle.

New Affiliate Faculty Members and Study Abroad in Cambodia

SEAC welcomes Tracy W. Harachi, Associate Professor from the School of Social Work. Harachi led a study abroad program this December to Cambodia to immerse students in the realities of a country rebuilding itself as a civil society after colonization and genocide. The eight undergraduate students who participated in the program came with an interdisciplinary focus (social work, international studies, political science, and sociology) The program was primarily based in Phnom Penh with a final excursion traveling along the Tonle Sap river and lake to Siem Reap home to Angkor Wat and other ancient temples. The course began with a historical focus on the genocide and current tribunal process and featured field trips to local organizations involved, for example, with documenting the genocide, advocating for current human rights issues, providing services to street youth and other vulnerable populations, and villages participating in women’s micro-lending groups. These field trips augmented the course readings and allowed students direct interactions with experts and activists in the country. Applications for next year’s program are due March 31, 2007.

For more details, see http://depts.washington.edu/sswweb/programs/cambodia/

For information on upcoming study abroad opportunities in Southeast Asia, see page 11.

SEAC also welcomes Hazel Hahn to its affiliate faculty. Hahn is an Associate Professor in History at Seattle University. Professor Hahn’s current project focuses on the colonial history of Hanoi (1900-1943) with emphasis on the politics of the municipal council and urban planning. She is also working on the history of building a tourist industry in French Indochina (1880s-1940) as well as on representations of race, colonial subjects and the exotic in French and British illustrated media in the nineteenth century. She is in the final stages of completing a book entitled Modernities on Display: Urban Culture and Advertising in Paris, 1820-1914.

Royal University of Phnom Penh and UW Social Work Partnership

In 2003, the University of Washington received a request from the Royal University of Phnom Penh to collaborate and create the first college level social work degree program in Cambodia. An enormous gap exists of qualified, trained Cambodians who can take leadership roles in addressing the multiple problems the country faces and there remains a heavy reliance on expatriates and infrastructure, particularly at the higher education level which was decimated during the period of the Khmer Rouge. (Continued on page 6)
RELIGION, ETHNICITY, AND MODERNITY: IDENTITY AND SOCIAL PRACTICE IN ASIA

The Southeast Asia Center will celebrate its 20th anniversary on October 5-6 by honoring the scholarly contributions of its founding director, anthropology professor Charles “Biff” Keyes. Since the beginning of his career, Professor Keyes’s work has centered on three key Weberian themes—religion, ethnicity, and modernity—which, together and separately, have had special relevance to the study of Southeast Asia, and Asia more generally. Leading scholars of the region will attend a two-day conference to explore these three concepts and their relevance in understanding the complex and volatile processes of change that have taken place in the region.

Keyes, who retired in 2006, is a former president of the Association for Asian Studies and the recipient of the 2003 University of Washington Graduate Mentor Award. Over his 41-year career, he has chaired 42 dissertation committees and served on over 145 others. He has played an especially significant role in mentoring an entire generation of Thai and Vietnamese anthropologists, many of whom now hold academic, administrative or political positions of importance in Southeast Asia. A prolific writer, Keyes has authored numerous articles and books, many of which are considered classics in their field, on topics ranging widely from ethnographic studies of village life in Thailand, to inquiries into the religious and cultural interpretations of karma. Among some of his best known works are “The Golden Peninsula: Culture and Adaptation in Mainland Southeast Asia,” and “Thailand: Buddhist Kingdom as Modern Nation-State.”

The two-day conference will be open to the public and will include thematic panels of invited papers, a reception to honor Professor Keyes, and a keynote address. The conference is supported by generous contributions from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation and the University of Washington College of Arts & Sciences.

The Tom and Mary Kay Getching Endowment for Students

Heartfelt thanks go out to Tom and Mary Kay Getching for their generous contribution establishing an endowed fund for students studying Southeast Asia. This year the funds will go to support travel for graduate students presenting conference papers.

Congratulations to the following students:

Arif Maftuhin (JSIS), who will present “Creating an Islamic Identity: Separatism and Religion in Aceh and Mindanao” at the 6th International Graduate Student Conference at the East West Center, University of Hawaii February 15-17.

Mis Siscawati (Anthro), who will use the funds to pursue her doctoral research on the community forestry movement in Indonesia.

Alma Trinidad (Social Work), who will present “The Threatened legacy of Barangay in the Midst of Globalization” at the Association for Asian American Studies Conference, April 4-8.


As many of you know, Tom has already given so much of his time and expertise to the UW Southeast Asian studies program as well as the broader university community. This is like icing on the cake. Thank you Tom and Mary Kay.
Phase I of the new Social Work Partnership has taken off with three students arriving from Cambodia in September, 2006, to begin the Master’s of Social Work Program. Dalin Meng, Long Ly, and Leonor Montiel comprise the first cohort of students. A second cohort has applied to the Graduate School and will hopefully join their colleagues next fall. These seven individuals will return and become faculty in the new Social Work Department at the Royal University of Phnom Penh with enrollment for the new bachelor’s program beginning in the Fall of 2008. Special thanks go out to individual donors who have made the Partnership a reality as well as to those who helped get the students settled or hosted a dinner or other outing.

Congratulations to the Following Southeast Asian Studies Students:

2006-2007 Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Awardees: Jason Chan (JSIS/China, Thai), Lisa Kenny (MAIS/MPA, Vietnamese), Lauren Krommiller (History, Indonesian), Hoang Ngo (MAIS, Thai), Emily Peterson (Archaeology, Indonesian), Tricia Vander Leest (MAIS/MPA, Indonesian), Matt Walton (Political Science, Burmese)

Blakemore Foundation Language Fellowship: John Buchanan (Political Science, Burmese) Jayde Robert (Architecture, Burmese)

Fulbright-Hays Fellowship: Patrick McCormick (History, Burma)

Harvard University Olin Fellowship for Strategic Studies: Post-doctoral award: Terrence Lee (Political Science)

UW Graduate School Fritz Fellowship for International Study and Exchange: Woongkung Yeo (History, Indonesia)

Dissertations defended


Help us Track Our Alums!

We are trying to do a better job of keeping in touch with our alums and we need your help. If you attended the UW and were involved in Southeast Asian studies, please drop us a line and let us know what you are currently doing. We love to hear from you! Please contact Associate Director Sara Van Fleet at saravf@u.washington.edu.

Engaging Southeast Asian American Pluralism in Seattle

A two-year Ford Foundation Difficult Dialogues grant was awarded last spring to Laurie Sears (History) and Francisco Benitez (Comparative Literature). Under the title Engaging Southeast Asian American Pluralism in Seattle: UW Undergraduate Student-Teacher Conversations on Religion, Politics, and Identity, this project is one of only twenty-seven selected nationally. Drawing on pluralism in its strongest sense, Engaging Southeast Asian Pluralism...
in Seattle embraces a vision for the future of undergraduate education, academic freedom, and community activism. The project’s main purpose is to provide spaces in and out of the classroom for students, instructors, and community partners to develop new models for conversations about identity and diversity, with a focus on UW’s Southeast Asian American students and Seattle’s SEAA communities.

One of the spaces where the project wants to increase student participation and exploration of difficult material about identity, community, and history is through the Mediated Student Dialogue component. The purpose of student dialogues is to encourage cross-cultural exchanges among diverse undergraduate student groups beyond the classroom. The first mediated student dialogue event occurred on November 18, 2006 and was organized by the Philippine American Dialogue and Discourse group (PADD).

The PADD event, entitled Tinig at Larawan: Images of Language, Communication, Identity and Power, centered on institutional, historical, communal and personal issues related to the struggle to stabilize funding of Tagalog language classes and faculty at the UW. Approximately 30 students, faculty, and broader community members participated in critical discussions about photographs PADD members took and helped develop action strategies to address the issue of institutionalization.

Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Student Brownbag Series

The Southeast Asia Center continued to cross disciplinary boundaries through a brown bag series designed to allow graduate students to share research and working papers. Tami Blumenfield (Anthropology) presented data on opium cultivation replacement methods that she had gathered on the China-Burma border, and Karen Brooks (Sociology) presented on internal labor migration in Thailand, and Hoang Ngo (Jackson School) presented on the Representation of the Buddhist movement in the Vietnamese press, 1963-1965. In addition to discussing the presentation topics, students who attended the brown bags talked about ways that we can build a stronger Southeast Asian studies community at the University of Washington. Brown bag sessions have been fruitful for both presenters and attendees in developing connections between scholars from different fields. If you are interested in presenting your research at a brown bag in a very constructive, supportive setting, please send an email to brown bag coordinator Matt Walton at mjw22@u.washington.edu.

Alumni Profile

Orlando deGuzman

Jackson School Southeast Asia alumni Orlando deGuzman (Class of ’95) has been working as a journalist for the BBC and public radio and television since he left the US in 2000. Last year his work focused on reporting on Burma, specifically about the hidden HIV AIDS epidemic there. DeGuzman has been in Indonesia since January 2006 on a Blakemore Advanced Asian Language Fellowship where he is currently studying advanced Indonesian. This year he will produce a TV documentary for PBS Frontline/World about the rise of sharia law in Aceh and other parts of Indonesia, scheduled to be broadcast in May 2007. He will also work as an Indonesia correspondent for Public Radio International/BBC’s The World program. In a recent email, he commented that developing fluency in Indonesian will be a great asset to his current project and his future reporting.
New SEAC Outreach Partnerships: Seattle Times Newspapers in Education

The past year has been busy for SEAC Outreach. For the second year in a row, the Jackson School Asia Outreach Centers have teamed up with the Newspapers In Education (NIE) program of the Seattle Times to offer a series of articles about Asia (written especially for young readers), a teaching guide, and a complementary workshop. The theme of the article series is “Youth Culture in Asia,” and the articles will run in the Seattle Times from February 13 – March 20, 2007. Topics in the five-article series include child labor in India, youth pastimes in Indonesia, online chatting in Central Asia, and school exams held in Japan. Students will get a glimpse of the challenges and opportunities that confront their peers around the world. The article series is offered at no cost to educators. For more information on receiving the series in your classroom call the NIE office at 206-652-6342, or email nie@seattletimes.com.

The Southeast Asia Center is encouraging graduate students to participate in SEAC Outreach activities. Last year, graduate student in Anthropology, Mia Siscawati, wrote two articles for the NIE series and contributed many project ideas for the accompanying 80-page teacher guide. Celia Lowe, Associate Professor of Anthropology, spoke at the NIE workshop along with Jackson School Professors Donald Hellmann and Director Anand Yang. This year, graduate student in Anthropology Chris Brown wrote SEAC’s article for the series: “Keeping in touch in Java.” Articles and Study Guides can be checked out from the Southeast Asia Center. While this year’s theme focuses on “Childhood and Youth Culture in Asia,” next year’s series will feature the “Performing Arts and Artists of Asia” and will coincide with a series of public performances and lectures.

Bainbridge Island Arts Education Community Council (BIAECC)

Outreach Coordinator Tikka Sears is working with a series of K-8 teachers on Bainbridge Island to bring Southeast Asian arts, oral history projects and culture into their classes. BIAECC supports arts education for Bainbridge Island Public Schools by bringing local artists into classrooms, offering professional performance opportunities, teaching art skills to teachers, training artists in integrated arts for the classroom, training art docents, and acquiring and creating arts education resource materials for use by teachers, parents and students. Founded in 1999, the Arts Education Consortium now encompasses all schools in the district, impacting more than 4000 children.

New SEAC Films and Resources

The Center has purchased some wonderful new films for our collection (loaned free of charge to students, faculty and teachers). For a complete list and description of films, go to our website at http://sis.washington.edu/seac/media.shtml.

New Southeast Asia film titles include:
- Rasinah: The Enchanted Mask
- Blowpipes and Bulldozers
- Bombies
- A Dream in Hanoi
- End of Empire: The Fall of Singapore
- Inside Rice
- Lucia
- Made in Thailand
- Modern Heroes, Modern Slaves
- Rising Above: Women of Vietnam
- Silk & Steel
- Singapore-Malaysia: The Lion and the Tiger
- Stop the Traffick
-Surname Viet, Given Name Nam
- A Tale of Love
- The Tenth Dancer

SEAC Outreach Coordinator Tikka Sears, Tori Topeng, Koncanin, Anjasmara. Photo by Chris Brown.
New Outreach Equipment for Loan to SE Asia Faculty and Students

To encourage pre-field trip training for graduate students and faculty and to encourage research projects with local Southeast Asian communities, the Center recently purchased two mini DV digital camcorders. The two camcorder packages are available for loan (free to students and faculty) and come with a tripod and microphone system. People interested in checking out the equipment must first sign up for a training session with Outreach Coordinator Tikka Sears, who has a Certificate in documentary film production.

Leading Proponent of Anti-Corruption in Malaysia Visits UW as Severyns-Ravenholt Distinguished Lecturer

Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia from 1993 to 1998, visited the UW campus in October to speak on "Human Rights, Destiny and Democracy in Southeast Asia." A reception preceding the lecture honored the breaking of the Ramadan fast. Attracting many Malaysian and other UW students along with UW faculty and community members, it served to welcome Anwar as well as to celebrate the Southeast Asia Center’s Annual Fall Reception.

Considered one of the forefathers of the Asian Renaissance, Anwar spoke on his unwavering support of cross-civilizational cooperation and responsible governance. These same ideals earlier led to the end of his political career within the Malaysian government followed by six years in prison on trumped up charges until his release in 2004. Having skillfully navigated the Malaysian economy through financial crisis while in service to its government, Anwar has since acted as consultant to the World Bank and is currently a Distinguished Visiting Professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Anwar continues to be an ardent supporter of democracy and cultural pluralism and advocates policies globally that supports these goals. The success of his visit to the UW speaks to the power of those ideals of greater transparency and accountability in business, government and non-governmental institutions that he advocates.

Sondhi Limthongkul Visits UW Campus, by Charles Keyes (Anthropology)

On November 14, 2006, Khun Sondhi Limthongkul spoke on the campus of the University of Washington in Seattle about the Thai political situation. His visit was arranged by Thai students at the University. An audience of approximately 350 people attended the event; most were Thai by origin who live in the Seattle area. There was also a scattering of non-Thai in the audience, including the former US Ambassador to Thailand, Darryl Johnson.

Khun Sondhi reiterated the reasons he has presented many times before about why former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had so abused power that only a coup could remove him.

He argued that there cannot be electoral democracy in Thailand such as is found in the West because most people outside the middle class lack sufficient knowledge to understand how power can be abused. The rural people only vote, he claimed, for those who pay them either directly through party organizers or indirectly through the populist programs.

Khun Sondhi was quite dismissive of a written constitution as the basis for governance in Thailand. Without a constitution, the only institution that can assure good governance is the monarchy. He said that ‘royal prerogative’ (phraratchamnat) is deeply respected and embodies the spirit of the nation.

The audience was generally very receptive to Khun Sondhi’s interpretations. A few Thai students from UW, however, handed out a statement of protest against the coup.

My own assessment of Khun Sondhi’s presentation was also not so positive. I found very disturbing Khun Sondhi’s assumption that rural people are ignorant and are not capable of making good political choices unless they are ‘bought’. As I know from my own long-term research in rural northeastern Thailand, villagers today are very much aware that unless political leaders are chosen who respond to their needs for government services such as (Continued on page 10)
(Continued from page 9) healthcare, education and government-sponsored loan funds they will continue to be very disadvantaged in Thailand’s capitalist economy. Khun Sondhi’s position seems to me to contribute to the growing class division of Thai society. I also found his dismissal of a written constitutional basis of governance and emphasis on ‘royal prerogative’ to, in effect, turn back the clock on the governing of Thailand to the system that existed prior to the revolution of 1932.

Thanks to McKay Caruthers and Welcome to Outreach Assistant Jonathan Thames

A special thanks goes out to McKay Caruthers, who has been helping SEAC with listserv management and website updating since last spring. We also welcome Jonathan Thames (JSIS SEA) as our Outreach Special Projects Assistant. Jonathan is a first year student with experience and interest in Southeast Asia and its languages. He will be going to Thailand this summer to participate in an immersion program followed by a UW Exploration Seminar in Northern Thailand. Jonathan is a great addition to the SEAC staff and we hope that you will have a chance to stop in the Center to meet him in person.

October 30

WALKER-AMES LECTURER
CHANDRA MUZAFFAR

Chandra Muzaffar will present an evening lecture on October 30 as part of the Walker-Ames lecture series. Muzaffar is the President of the International Movement for a Just World, which seeks to raise public awareness of the moral and intellectual basis of global justice. A political scientist, he was the first Director of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue at the University of Malaya and has also written numerous books on religion, human rights, Malaysian politics, and international relations, including most recently, Rights, Religion, and Reform (Routledge Curzon, 2002.) Additionally, he sits on the boards of several international non-governmental organizations concerned with social justice and civilizational dialogue.

SEAC 2007 Winter/Spring

Saturday, Jan 6  Free First Saturday: Fun and Games! Explore the Asian game Go, along with other traditional games, plays, and entertainment from Asia. Afterwards, enjoy Indonesian mask dancing and storytelling by local artist Tikka Sears in the Fuller Garden Court. 11-2PM Seattle Asian Art Museum

Wednesday, January 31  Film preview, Phi Ta Kon (Thailand). 12:30-2:00pm, Allen Auditorium. A fascinating documentary film about a music and cultural festival in Northeastern Thailand. Filmmaker Rob Mills will be present to answer questions and talk about the filmmaking process.

Wednesday, February 7  Youth Culture in Asia, A Seattle Times and UW Jackson School Workshop and Article Series. Workshop: 4:30-7:30PM The Seattle Times Building Auditorium. For the third year in a row, the Jackson School Asia Outreach Centers have teamed up with the Newspapers In Education program of The Seattle Times to offer a series of articles about Asia (written especially for young readers), a teaching guide, and a complimentary workshop. Articles will run in the Seattle Times from Feb 12-March 20.


March 1-4  Workshop. “Alternative Voices and Histories in Colonial Viet Nam, 1885-1950.” A four-day workshop bringing together scholars from around the world to discuss new interpretations of Vietnamese history. Go to the SE Asia Center website for times, location and information: http://jsis.washington.edu.seac. Co-sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences

Thursday March 8-Sunday March 11  Performance: Le Vu Long / Together Higher Stories of Us. 8:00PM at On the Boards 100 West Roy Street. Box Office: 206.217.9888 Tickets $24. Since forming a serendipitous partnership with Together Higher, a company of highly trained yet hearing-impaired dancers, on-the-rise choreographer Le Vu Long has bucked the norms of the dance scene in Southeast Asia. Using Western-inflected modern dance, live music, and striking lighting design, Long and company reflect on stereotypes concerning sexual orientation and life-threatening illness. Long is a dancer, choreographer and film actor who was born in Hanoi. While he is currently supported by the classically-focused Vietnam Opera and Ballet Theatre, his choreography contributes a radical voice for dance in Vietnam.
Saturday, March 17  Teachable Traditions: Tales, Toys and Crafts from Around the World, A Mosaic Workshop for K-8 Educators, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Registration required. Hands-on sessions will put educators to work cutting, stitching, and pouring their way to a new appreciation and understanding of world cultures through folk tales, crafts and toys. A special keynote session will introduce toys and tales from around the world with the nationally acclaimed Rick. Following the keynote, participants will select from a series of break-out sessions that explore storytelling traditions, toys and traditional crafts from various world regions.

Wednesday, March 28  Hotspots lecture series, SE Asia and East Asia speaker Darrin Magee (Ph.D. UW Geography). “Watts and Water: Hydropower Development on Transnational Rivers in China and Mainland Southeast Asia.” 7:00-8:30 PM. Registration required. Sponsored by the University of Washington’s Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies outreach centers. Clock hours available for teachers who attend the series. For registration information, please visit: http://www.extension.washington.edu/ext/special/jackson/default.asp

Monday, April 2  Muhammad Haji Salleh, Malaysian poet, critic, editor and translator, will read poetry and present a lecture. 3:30-5:00pm, Smith Room, Suzzallo Library. Poetry reading: “Rowing Down Two Rivers: A Reading of a Selection of Muhammad Salleh’s Poetry in Malay and English.” Muhammad has written in both Malay and English since 1964 and has written on the culture clash and problems of identity of both the poet and the Malaysians as a whole. Lecture: “A World in Four Lines: The Nusantara Pantun and its Traditional and Contemporary Uses.” The pantun is perhaps the most important literary form that is used in almost all stages and fields of human experience in the Archipelago. This lecture attempts to trace its many functions, from the lullaby to the love song, proverbs, speeches and wakes.

Saturday, April 28  Washington Weekend Jackson School Lecture Series. 11:30-12:45pm, Thomson Hall, Room 317. Assistant Professor Peter Lape (UW Anthropology and Curator, Burke Museum). “Guerrillas & Stegodons: Archaeology in East Timor.”

Late April Early May  Jody Blanco, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, UCSD: Filipino Literature; Nineteenth-Century Latin American and Caribbean Literature; Anti-Colonial Thought. Co-sponsored by the Department of English and the Department of Comparative Literature. http://literature.ucsd.edu/faculty/jblanco.cfm

Thursday, May 3  Thongchai Winichakul (History, University of Wisconsin Madison) is a specialist in the intellectual and cultural history of Thailand, with an emphasis on knowledge and the construction of the Thai nationhood. His book, Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-body of Siam. 3:30-5:00pm, Location TBA.

Monday May 14  Warwick Anderson, historian in science and technology studies and Chair of the Department of Medical History at the University of Wisconsin Madison. “Pacific Crossings: The Imperial Logics and Transnational Formations of U.S. Public Health.” 4:00pm, Communications 120.

Tuesday May 15  Nguyen Qui Duc, journalist, writer and host of NPR’s Pacific Time: “Hanoi Nights: Youth and Popular Culture in Southeast Asia.” Time and Location TBA.

Tuesday, May 22  Visiting Lecturer Anna Tsing (Anthropology, UC Santa Cruz), author of Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection, 2005; Shock and Awe: War on Words. (B. van Eekelen, J. González, B. Stötzer, and A. Tsing, eds), 2004; Nature in the Global South: Environmental Projects in South and Southeast Asia. (P. Greenough and A. Tsing, eds), 2003. Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, the Institute for Transnational Studies and the Simpson Center for the Humanities.

Thursday, May 31  Visiting scholar Sheila Coronel (Director, Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism, Columbia U). Brown Bag student discussion and afternoon lecture regarding the challenges of investigative journalism and current political issues in the Philippines. Lecture, 3:30-5:30pm, CMU 120.

2007 Southeast Asia Exploration Seminars

Philippines: The Afterlife of Empire: the Case of the Philippines
Program Director: Rick Bonus (American Ethnic Studies)
Dates of Instruction: August 24 - September 12, 2007

Northern Thailand: Tradition Meets Modernization
Program Director: Darryl Johnson (International Studies)
Dates of Instruction: August 21-September 18, 2007

Thailand/Cambodia: Globally Responsible, Globally Profitable: Corporate Social Responsibility in Southeast Asia
Program Director: James Reinnoldt (School of Business, UW Bothell)
Dates of Instruction: August 22 - September 13, 2007

Six-week 12-credit academic program to Viet Nam
(June 18-July 27, 2007)

“Building for Peace in the Wake of War”

In the summer of 2007, the Comparative History of Ideas program will sponsor a study abroad program led by Christoph Giebel (UW, Int’l. Studies/History) to explore the legacy of war and ongoing rebuilding efforts in Viet Nam. In partnership with Peace Trees Vietnam, a Seattle-based organization working in Quang Tri Province on land mine clearance and environmental/community restoration, our group of 12-18 students will pursue historical studies in Ha Noi and Hue and participate in a community-building project with local people in Dong Ha, near the former Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Ability to speak Vietnamese is not required, and students from all areas of study are encouraged to apply. For complete program description, go to http://depts.washington.edu/chid/showprogram.php?id=50
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