

Getting Out of the Foreign Language Classroom: Using On-Campus and Community Resources to Develop Translingual and Transcultural Competence in Thai/Lao & Other Languages

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“Exploring approaches to Cultures & Languages Across the Curriculum”

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The University Hotel Minneapolis

Minneapolis, MN

***Poster exhibit by John Hartmann, Northern Illinois University &
Itsarate Dolphen, Mahidol University, Thailand***

Getting Out of the F L Classroom:

Using On-Campus and Community Resources to Develop Translingual and Transcultural Competence in Thai/Lao & Other Languages & Other Languages

Abstract

The majority of students taking a foreign language, especially those in non-elite schools, will never have the opportunity to go abroad.

Nevertheless, they can be proffered a global experience using resources close at hand: libraries, museums, concerts, lectures, festivals, restaurants, markets, gardens, places of worship, sports areas, karaoke clubs, and immigrant enclaves. These many local resources excite and motivate students and afford them the realization that they do not necessarily need to go abroad to use their classroom language or to experience the culture. Such opportunities are close at hand and are waiting to be exploited.

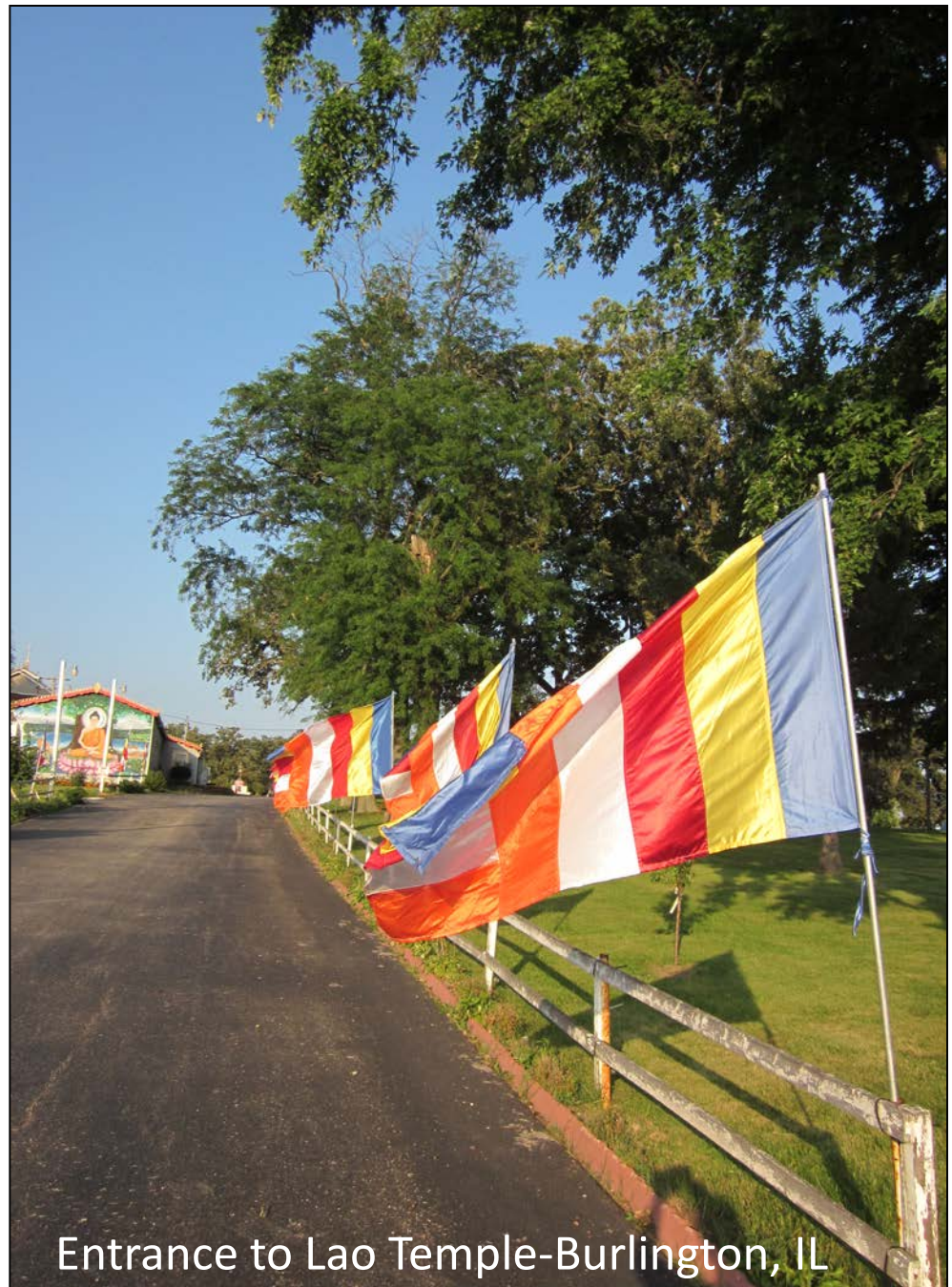
Getting Out ...

Campus resources:

- SE Asia Library collection
- Museums
- Lectures
- Asia-American Month activities
- Movies

Community resources:

- Local garden with Asian plants
- Buddhist Temples
- Asian food stores
- Thai/Lao restaurants
- Karaoke & Media



Entrance to Lao Temple-Burlington, IL

Religion



Two Thai language students interview the abbot of a local Lao temple – 20 min. from campus

CAMPUS RESOURCES:

Library:

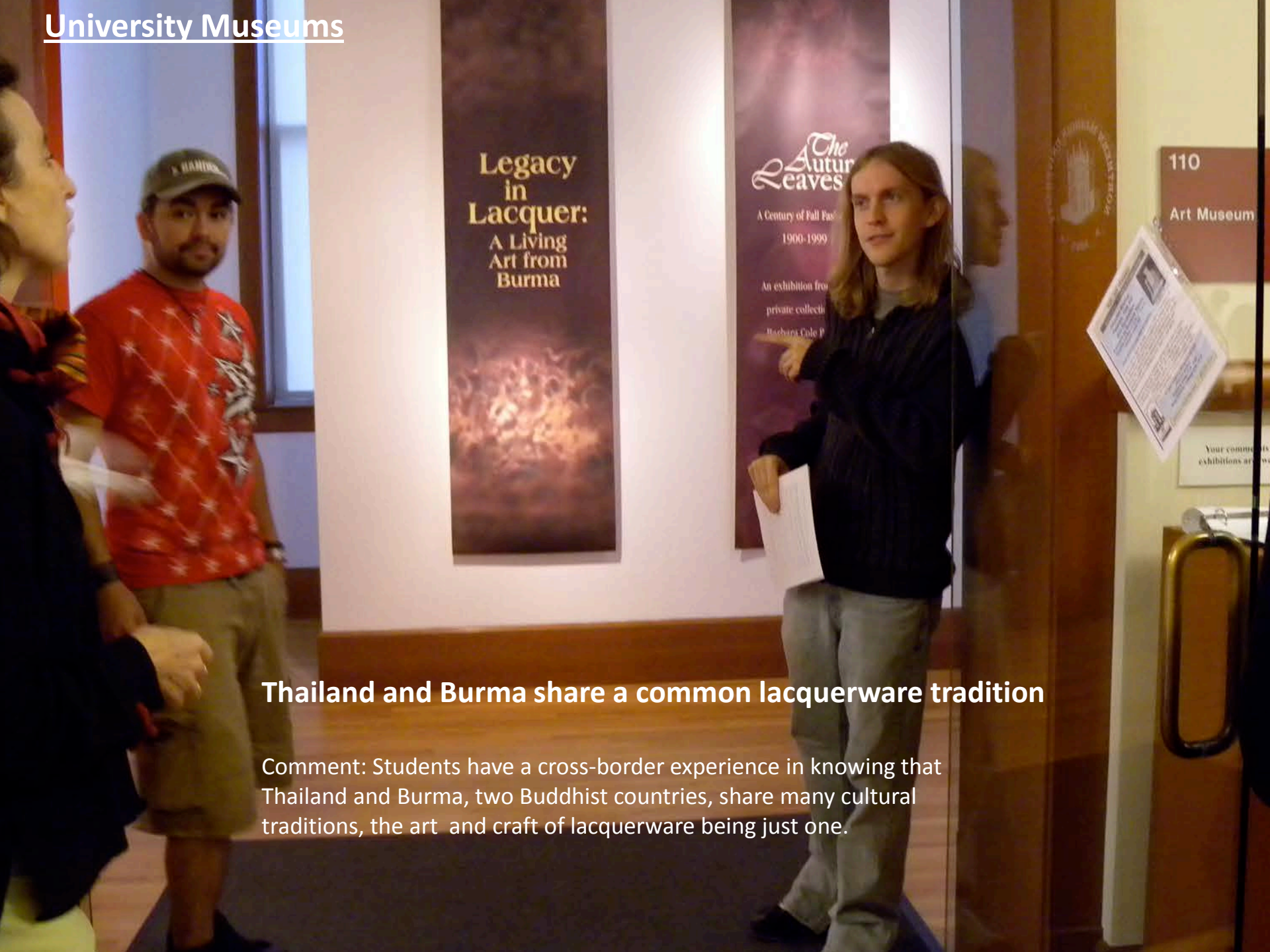
Southeast Asia Collection
Curator Hao Phan orients
Thai language class.

Comment: Many students
do not even know how to use
a library, let alone a special collection.

Task:


Find a book, an article, a
newspaper, or a dvd, with call numbers.





Thailand and Burma share a common lacquerware tradition

Comment: Students have a cross-border experience in knowing that Thailand and Burma, two Buddhist countries, share many cultural traditions, the art and craft of lacquerware being just one.



**Thai language students listen to lecture
by Art History Professor, Dr. Catherine Raymond**

In preparation, they are given guide questions they will need to find answers to as they explore the museum exhibit.

Exhibits:

Burmese Body Tattooing



Gold covered bamboo text pages



Note black design of tattooed legs and waist of male.

Community:

Gardens

Visit to a Thai garden within walking distance from campus

Task: Identify Thai herbs and other plants

Kaffir lime

Thai basil

Yard-long beans

Jasmine

Lemon grass

Chili peppers



Food

Garden lunch with Thai
FLTA (Fulbright Language
Teaching Assistant)

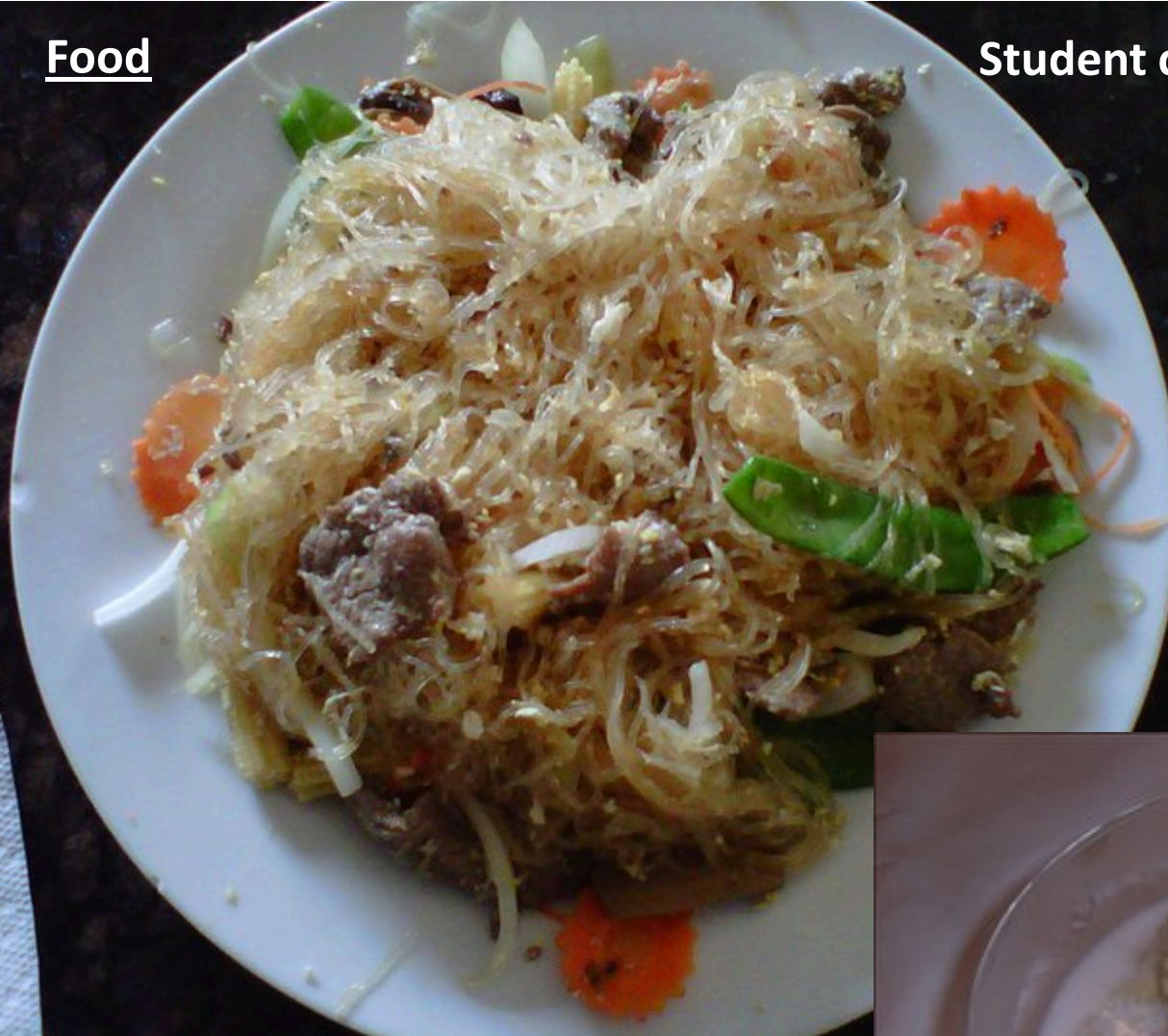
Task:

Students learn to make a
Spicy Green Papaya Salad
-*Som Tam*- from garden
chili peppers, yard-long beans,
Lao tomatoes, and store-bought
green papaya.



Food

Student cooking



Fried rice – easy!

Glass noodles with beef and veggies

Bananas in coconut crème >

Task:

Students read recipes in class; cook them at home; share photos and pictures on Face Book.



Food



Thai class lunches at the Thai Pavilion restaurant in downtown De Kalb

Finis