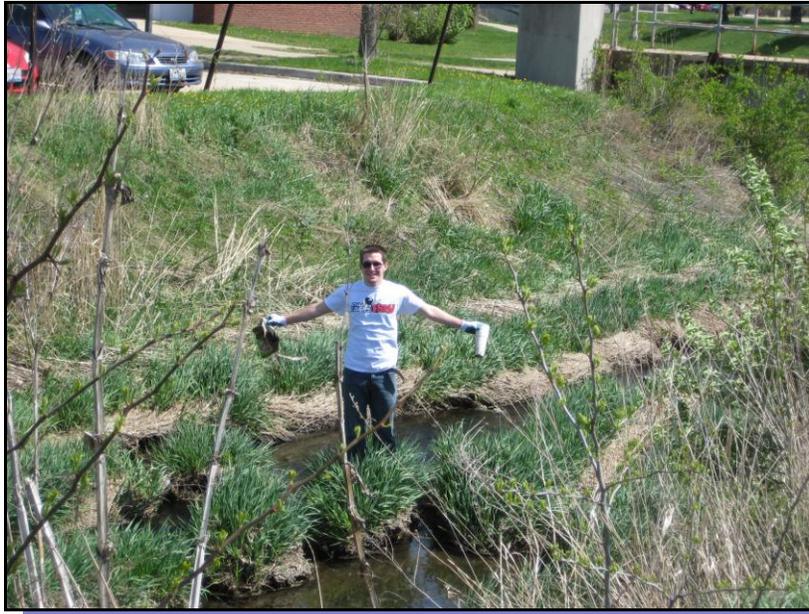


CSEAS Weekly Bulletin

Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University • April 26, 2010



Every litter bit helps: Southeast Asia Club member Michael Deinzer, a Southeast Asian Studies minor, picks up trash in waterway in the central part of the NIU campus on April 17. Deinzer, along with club members Aileen Adams, Brittany Bataoel, Peter Colina, Michael Dienzer, Julie Edmunds, Melanie Francia, Sagung (Mirah) Kertayuda, and Pierre Michiels, were participating in NIU Cares Day, an all-campus service event.

Service, SEAYLP, and new school connections

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1. Notes from SEAYLP: Springfield, the Mighty Miss, and on to Washington, D.C.
The Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) students and adult leaders are in Washington, D.C., this week with center director Jim Collins and the SEAYLP graduate students who have been working with the group since its arrival on campus April 7. Before departing for Washington on April 24, the group visited Springfield, Ill., April 19 to immerse themselves in Abraham Lincoln's early life as a country lawyer and

later life as U.S. president. "We started our tour at Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site in Petersburg where Lincoln spent some of his early years," recounted graduate student Sean Dolan. "The day was beautiful and the students enjoyed the roughly ¾-mile walk among the village's houses, shops, and workshops of the village. They talked to



period-costumed volunteers staffing the village about early 19th-century china-ware and blacksmithing. I think each of the volunteers had his or her picture taken with every participant." The group later went to the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, which included presentations in the museum's two theaters. "Several students insisted on returning to see 'Ghosts of the Library' a second time," Dolan said. "It featured a live actor who explains the importance of archival material for accessing the past and includes a number of very impressive special effects, including the ultimate vanishing of the actor from the scene."

At the Lincoln Home where Lincoln lived while practicing law in central Illinois, Dolan said some of the participants discussed why they thought Lincoln had become such an important figure in American history, comparing Lincoln's ability to maintain public support while making difficult decisions to situations in their own countries. Later in the week, the group also visited the National Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque, Iowa, and Lock and Dam 11 in Rock Island to continue their study of river ecology and environmental issues. They also attended a presentation on case studies of non-governmental organizations and presented their individual action plans. A farewell reception was held for the group and their host families on April 23. In Washington, the group is staying at the 4-H Youth Conference Center and visiting the Smithsonian Institution, the national archives, the State Department, Great Falls of the Potomac National Park, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. They leave for their respective home countries April 29.

2. April 30 second chance to apply for CSEAS-sponsored summer FLAS funding

The center's fellowships committee is giving students a second opportunity to apply for summer 2010 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship funding. **The**

deadline to apply is April 30. FLAS fellowships are available for both graduate and undergraduate students studying a Southeast Asian language. To receive summer FLAS fellowship funding, you need to enroll in an established program that contains 120 classroom hours in a program of at least 6 weeks. That means at least 4.5 hours, 5 days a week, for 6 weeks. Consult with your NIU language instructor to identify recognized in-country language programs in Southeast Asia (for intermediate and advanced levels only) or at SEASSI to be held in Madison, WI (for all levels). Program details and online applications are available [online](#) at the center website.

3. CSEAS explores outreach project with Illinois Math and Science Academy



CSEAS director Jim Collins met last week with Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA) president Max McGee, seven faculty members (largely from the social sciences), and interested students for lunch and dialogue about possible collaborations between the center and the academy, reports history graduate student Laura

Iandola, who accompanied Collins on the trip. The lively discussion centered on two existing programs at IMSA: a week-long intersession program offered in January and SIR, a research/mentorship project, Iandola said. The intersession program offers short courses on a variety of topics, which often serve as springboards to larger research projects in the school's SIR program. Three students at the meeting, members of IMSA's two orchestras, were interested in gamelan music and in Borneo string instruments discussed by Collins, Iandola said, suggesting the center could facilitate bringing an ethnomusicology class to the intersession program. In the SIR program, students present a research proposal and bibliography, then work with a designated mentor. One IMSA student recently went to India to investigate public health options for young mothers. The group discussed expanding a Southeast Asia intersession course into a larger research project that could bring IMSA students into NIU's Study Abroad programs. IMSA faculty expressed an interest in ways to bring the expertise of NIU's Southeast Asia specialists to its own curricula, such as the political and military history of the United States in Southeast Asia or the history of Islam in the region. There was also some discussion of involving the school's Asian-American Student Club (40 percent of IMSA students are Asian-American) with NIU's Southeast Asia Club and, on IMSA's part, lending its expertise on communicating with teenage audiences and designing activities appealing and appropriate to them.

4. Program set for June genocide workshop for teachers

Anthropology professors and center associates Judy Ledgerwood and Susan Russell will be among the featured speakers at the Roger W. Smith Genocide and Human Rights Summer Institute for K-16 educators set for June 14 to 17 at NIU. The institute, which is co-sponsored by the center and by NIU's Genocide and Human Rights Institute, will focus on Southeast Asia and Africa. Ledgerwood will discuss Cambodia and Russell will

cover the Philippines and Thailand. Other featured speakers from NIU include assistant history professor Ismael Montana, who will talk about Darfur and the Sudan, and associate history professor and institute director J.D. Bowers, who recently received NIU's award of excellence for undergraduate teaching and who is co-authoring a textbook on genocide. Anthropologist Nancy Lutz (Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville) will discuss Indonesia and East Timor. The institute will open with an overall look at genocide in the 21st century by Bowers. The keynote address will be made by political scientist Scott Straus (University of Wisconsin–Madison), who will discuss the Rwandan genocide. Bartlett High School social studies teacher (and NIU alumnus) Brett Weiss and 2010 NIU graduate Shay Galto, who will give a presentation about the Cambodian genocide with Bowers, will also speak. The institute was named for Roger W. Smith, one of the founders of the International Association of Genocide Scholars and an expert on the early 20th-century Armenian genocide. Modest stipends will be available to the first 20 registered participants. Attending teachers will receive continuing education credits. For program information and registration details, see the [institute website](#). **Registration deadline: June 4.**

5. Russell on panel to brief new U.S. ambassador to the Philippines

The U.S. State Department invited anthropology professor and center associate Susan Russell to Washington, D.C., on March 29 to participate in an academic seminar briefing on the peace process in Mindanao for the new U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, Harry Thomas. Later this spring (May 17–18), Russell will participate in a workshop in New York City on religion, peace building and development in Mindanao. The workshop, the first of three international workshops, is sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and is being held in conjunction with the group's ongoing project on religion and international affairs, said Russell, a Philippine specialist who has been actively involved with Mindanao for a number of years. Russell and center associate Lina Ong have directed NIU's [Philippine Youth Leadership Program](#), a U.S. State Department-sponsored project, for the past seven years. The program brings Muslim and non-Muslim high school students to NIU for up to six weeks of intensive training in conflict-resolution and leadership training. This year's group, 22 Muslim and non-Muslim students and their four adult leaders, arrived on campus April 17 and will be in DeKalb until May 22 when the group leaves DeKalb for a week in Washington, D.C., before returning home.



Susan Russell

6. Deadline this week for Ramayana conference proposals

The deadline for presentation proposals is **April 30** for the Third International Ramayana Conference, which is now scheduled for Sept. 18–19 at NIU's DeKalb campus. The two-day event, co-sponsored by the center, the University of Illinois Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and the International Ramayana Institute of North America, will include a teacher workshop. For details, see the [conference website](#).

7. UI–UC offers world religions institute for teachers in June

The world's religions will be the focus of a five-day [teachers institute](#) at the University of Illinois June 13–18 in Urbana–Champaign. The institute for K–16 teachers will cover multi-disciplinary approaches to understanding and teaching about world religions, including Christianity, Buddhism, Confucianism, Islam, Shintoism, Hinduism, Judaism, Taoism, and diasporic religious practices in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Continuing education credit will be given to participating teachers. Graduate course credit is also available. Registration is limited to 35. **Registration deadline: May 14.**

8. Save the dates: Philippine music and Lao artistry

- **May 1:** The University of the Philippines Concert Chorus will perform an afternoon of Philippine music at 2 p.m. at [Gary United Methodist Church](#), 224 N. Main St., Wheaton. Admission is \$20; free to children and seniors. Tickets available at the door.
- **Aug. 20–21:** The Lao Professionals of Illinois will present the first annual Lao Artist Festival in Elgin **Aug. 20** at Hemmens Auditorium, 45 Symphony Way, and **Aug. 21** at Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive. The festival will feature arts and handicrafts from Laos, traditional dance and music, a talent show, traditional dances, and more. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. For details, see the festival [website](#) or call festival producer Aloun Khotisene at 847-877-8224.

9. Ongoing area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities

- The Indonesian Consulate in Chicago offers **free Balinese and Javanese dance and gamelan classes** on weekends. For details, see the consulate [website](#).
- The Cambodian Association of Illinois holds **free traditional Cambodian music and dance lessons** Sundays at the Cambodian American History Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. The music program runs from 10 a.m. to noon; the dance program from 1 to 3 p.m. For details, call Anneth Houy at 773-878-7090. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and on weekends by appointment.

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

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