Like water for shopping: The Thai contingent of the spring Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) shops for water at a local retail venue a day after arriving at NIU on April 7. Pictured front left to right are Bee, Enfant, Rin, Rutchadee, Alisa, and May; in the back is the group’s adult leader, Light. See article below.

Spring SEAYLP participants arrive at NIU

1. No speaker April 16; Martha Ratliff to speak April 23
2. SEAYLP participants begin spring session at NIU
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1. Next week’s lecture (Friday, April 23): Martha Ratliff, Wayne State University
   Wayne State linguist Martha Ratliff (Department of English) will present “Loanwords in Hmong: Report from the Loanword Typology Project” at the center’s weekly lecture series at noon in Room 110, Campus Life Building. Ratliff will discuss the loanword typology project that took place at the Max Planck Institute between 2004 and 2008, presenting an introduction to the on-line database, an overview of

Martha Ratliff
the foreign element within the Hmong lexicon, and some of the interesting loanword patterns that emerged in the course of work on the Hmong portion of the database. Ratliff is the author of *Meaningful Tone: A Study of Tonal Morphology in Compounds, Form Classes, and Expressive Phrases in White Hmong*, released this spring by Northern Illinois University Press as part of its new Southeast Asia Series. For a Thai lunch, call 815-753-1771 or e-mail cseas@niu.edu by noon Thursday. Lunches are $4 for students, $5 for others.

2. SEAYLP participants begin spring session at NIU
The *spring session* of the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) kicked off this week with a multicultural welcome luncheon on April 12 in the Sky Room at the Holmes Student Center where the 26 students and five adults leaders from Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, and the Philippines, were based from their arrival on April 7 until April 11, when they were picked up by their respective local host families. Over the weekend, they toured DeKalb, saw a movie together (*Edward Scissorhands*), were hosted at individual country meals, and attended a variety of workshops. Topics included religious diversity in the United States; an introduction to regional Southeast Asia; U.S. civil society; and how to use theater and the arts as tools for civic engagement and communication.

The SEAYLP program, which is funded by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and operated by the center, runs through Thursday, April 29. Before leaving for five days in Washington, D.C., on April 24, the group will be involved in more workshops on campus and travel to Chicago, Downer’s Grove, Springfield, and Dubuque, Iowa, in addition to spending time with their host families. The group will focus on two themes highlighting the links that make Illinois a unique site to host the program: river ecology and President Abraham Lincoln.

“Just as rivers cross regional and national borders today, the world’s future leaders will need to work across boundaries, making rivers both a metaphor and a focus of the program,” said center director Jim Collins. “Rivers are commonalities between nations that have a profound impact on the people of a region and need cooperative action to solve problems. Such problem-solving ability will be key for tomorrow’s leaders.”

3. History graduate student receives 2010–11 Neher fellowship
CSEAS graduate assistant Coral Carlson, a Ph.D. candidate in history, is the 2010–11 recipient of the center’s Clark and Arlene Neher Graduate Fellowship. Carlson, who is presenting a paper on pre-modern Southeast Asian ceramics trading with Europe this week at the Renaissance Society of America’s annual meeting in Venice, Italy, has
studied Southeast Asian ceramics for four years and has begun researching Thailand’s participation in Eurasian trade with high-fired stoneware. She credits taking NIU’s Study Abroad Malaysia program, led by assistant history professor and center associate Eric Jones, with inspiring her to switch her area of concentration from early modern Europe to Asia. The Neher fellowship provides $5,000 for a research project. Carlson’s project will take her to Thailand to study several Thai ceramics collection and to explore the connection between Thai and early Italian ceramics. In addition to her studies this semester, Carlson is leading the spring session of the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program.

4. University Plaza offers room and board scholarship through CSEAS
University Plaza, a private residence hall at NIU, is offering the Morton J. Crane Scholarship, free room and board for one academic year, through CSEAS to a qualified full-time undergraduate student pursuing a liberal arts degree. Applicants must show financial need. Applications may be downloaded from the center website, Student Funding tab. **Deadline: April 21.**

5. Deadline extended, location changed for Ramayana conference
The deadline for presentation proposals has been extended to **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](#).

6. Center receives NIU Ally Award
The center was pleased to receive an NIU Ally Award last week. The awards are sponsored by the Presidential Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center, and the LGBT Studies Program in recognition of individuals, departments, and groups who have made positive contributions for or on behalf of the LGBT community. The awards are presented in April, LGBT Awareness Month.

7. International Training Office seeking host families for PYLP
The International Training Office is looking for four families to act as hosts for two weeks in May for three pairs of boys and one adult leader from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao who are coming to NIU in April for six weeks to participate in the seventh Philippine Youth Leadership Program (PYLP). This program runs **April 17–May 22;** the home-stay segment is **May 2–15.** For details, contact NIU host family coordinator (and
past host) Leslie Shive at 815-753-9546 (e-mail lshive@niu.edu). For host family application forms, see the PYLP website.

8. Manuscript society offers research grant
The Manuscript Society, an international organization of persons and institutions devoted to the collection, preservation, use and enjoyment of autographs and manuscripts, is accepting applications for its Maass Research Grant for scholars whose research relies heavily on manuscripts. The $5,000 grant is named for Richard Maass, one of the society’s founders, and is to be used for expenses directly related to research using original manuscripts. Applicants must be enrolled in an advanced degree program, with preference given to Ph.D. students. Send application letter, a resume, and a short description of research proposal with a proposed budget to Jan Beckingham, Director's Office, Oregon Historical Society, 1200 S.W. Park Ave., Portland, OR 97225. For details, e-mail George.Vogt@ohs.org. Application deadline: June 1.

9. Save the dates: Culture fest, volunteer day, lectures, and more
- **April 16**: The ETHNOTOPIA 2010 cultural festival, featuring three hours of ethnic vocal, instrumental, and dance performances, opens at 6 p.m. in the Wirtz Hall auditorium on campus. Admission is free. The event is co-sponsored by the International Students Association and the Burma Interest Group-NIU.
- **April 17**: SEA Club will be participating in NIU Cares Day, which places NIU organizations and students throughout DeKalb and Sycamore to do community service projects from 8 a.m. to late afternoon. Participants get a free T-shirt and a free lunch. To register online, see the NIU Cares Day website (select SEAclubNIU when prompted for a group). For details, contact club president Julie Edmunds at edmundsjulie@yahoo.com or 815-566-2765.
- **April 22, 23**: Alexander Hinton, associate professor of anthropology at Rutgers University and director of the Rutgers Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, will present “The Paradox of Perpetration” at 7 p.m. April 22 in Room 176 DuSable and “Trials, Tribulations, and Transitional Justice” at 11 a.m. April 23 in Room 206 Stevens. Hinton is the author of *Why Did They Kill? Cambodia in the Shadow of Genocide* (University of California Press, 2004).
- **April 25**: The Chicago-based Friends of the Gamelan will present a spring concert of traditional and contemporary Javanese gamelan music, led by Joko Sutrisno, artistic director of the Sumunar Gamelan Ensemble of Minneapolis, at 6 p.m. at Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn, Chicago. Admission is $10 for adults; $5 for students. For details, e-mail info@chicagogamelan.org or see the group’s website.
- **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 for adults; free for 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.

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.