Reflection time: An evening walk takes Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) participants to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial on the Tidal Basin where a picture-perfect view of the Washington Monument awaits. Details below. (Photo / Sean Dolan)

SEAYLP wraps up in D.C., another year at CSEAS winds down

The CSEAS weekly bulletin will resume in August; the center wishes all a good summer!

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1. Notes from SEAYLP as the spring session wraps up in D.C.

There were a few 10-minute thunder showers, but otherwise the weather was warm and sunny in Washington, D.C., as the spring session of the center’s Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) wound up with six days in the nation’s capital before the participants left for their home countries of Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand on April 30. The group spent the first day getting acquainted with the city and touring the World War II Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. “We just had time to get into the Lincoln memorial before rain fell,” said SEAYLP manager Sean Dolan. “There was ten minutes of downpour in which the Washington monument vanished from sight and then slowly and dramatically reappeared as the rain became less intense.” The next day was occupied by a trip to Lafayette Park and a photo opportunity at the White House where an anti-nuclear bomb protester and a man reciting Qur’an and proselytizing for Islam offered an impromptu First Amendment lesson. At Ford’s Theatre, the group visited a museum tracing the history of Abraham Lincoln’s presidency to his assassination in the theatre. “We were then ushered into the actual theatre where effort has been taken to preserve the box in which Lincoln was sitting with his wife when he was killed. A park ranger gave an interpretative account of the assassination,” Dolan said. “Niko, from the Philippines, told me that he was surprised by the detail of the account. How did they know that he was holding his wife’s hand when he was shot? But he said that that kind of detail really brought the story to life.” The group ended the day at the National Museum of American History.

Later in the week, the group visited the Capitol building, where they sat in the House Gallery during the tour, the National Archives, and the Newseum, where they participated in a workshop about the civil rights movement and the First Amendment. They also went to the U.S. State Department, which funds the SEAYLP program, and met with program officer Carolyn Lantz and desk officers representing their countries. They also had the opportunity to present their action plans. From the State Department, the group went to DuPont Circle where participants were divided into three groups to visit three non-
governmental organizations: the Asia Foundation, Carnegie Institution for Science, and Freedom House respectively, reconvening at the Asia Foundation later for a group debriefing about what each group learned during its visit. The group also spent a day in Annapolis, Md., temporary U.S. capital early in the country’s history, where the group visited the Maryland State House and the U.S. Naval Academy. “While visiting the chapel at the academy a heavy rain began and we had to sit in the chapel to wait it out,” Dolan said. “However, this turned out to be quite fortunate as we heard a demonstration of the chapel’s more than 1500-pipe organ. The participants were entranced by Bach’s *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor*, the deep tones of which literally caused the pews in which we sat to reverberate.” The weather cleared in time for a scheduled cruise on the Chesapeake Bay.

On their last day in the U.S. before leaving for their home countries, participants traveled in small groups to the National Mall to visit the Smithsonian museums of their choice, most of them electing to go to the Air and Space Museum or the Natural History Museum. The day ended with a parting dinner at a local restaurant and a party back at the Churchill Hotel where each participant had the opportunity to share favorite moments of the program. “While such speeches inspired tears, everyone left laughing after a frosting fight. The participants vowed not to sleep that night and I think few did,” Dolan said. Learn more about the spring session of SEAYLP online by following the [SEAYLP blog](#).

2. Kudos: Best student conference paper winners

Three students took home awards for best papers presented at the Southeast Asia Club’s annual student conference held April 23 in Altgeld Hall. JoAnn LoSavio, a double anthropology/history major with a Southeast Asia minor, won Best Undergraduate Paper for “‘So How Can?’: Chinese Malaysian Social Resistance and Malay Political Hegemony.” Anthropology master’s candidates Mu-Lung Hsu and Brett McCabe tied for Best Graduate Paper, Hsu for “Fear Nothing but Poverty: Legal or Illegal? The Risky Motorbike Import in Burma” and McCabe for “From Arabic Orthography to Roman-Script Malay: Script Shift in the History of the Malay Language.” The three were among 13 students...
presenting papers at the conference, which focused on resistance movements and democratization in Southeast Asia. For a complete list of papers presented, see the program posted on the conference website.

3. CSEAS on the road: Urbana-Champaign

Within the framework of the Mid-America Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies (MAXIS), center director Jim Collins met April 25 with noted Indonesian ethnomusicologist Philip Yampolsky, director of the Center for World Music, and anthropologist Helaine Silverman, director of Collaborative for Cultural Heritage and Museum Practices, at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. In the shade of flowering apple and magnolia trees, they discussed a tentative schedule of public talks, student and faculty visits, shared proposals for grants to enhance Southeast Asian studies in the region, and joint conferences. Plans were set for further discussions in the fall semester.

Jim Collins visits UI-UC.

4. New Malay language group approved as official NIU student organization

The NIU Student Association Senate has approved a new Southeast Asia-related student organization, the Malay International Language Organization (MILO). The group is aimed at developing a greater understanding of Malay culture and Southeast Asia on campus and abroad. “MILO’s open to all NIU students,” said MILO president Brett McCabe. “We’re planning cultural events, workshops and discussions so our members and the NIU community can enjoy opportunities to participate in and learn about the Malay culture and the role of Malay-speaking societies in Southeast Asia.” With six successful Study Abroad programs in Malaysia and Brunei led by associate history professor and center associate Eric Jones, approved federal funding for NIU’s Online Multimedia Learner’s Dictionary of Malay, and the launching of Malay language classes at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels, this new student initiative strengthens NIU’s profile as the leading center of Malay studies in the U.S, said center director Jim Collins. McCabe and fellow MILO officers Ryan Keller (vice president), Mary Thomas (treasurer), and Colleen Gray (secretary) have secured Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) awards to study language at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) this summer, Collins said. The four plan to use the opportunity to build up linkages between NIU and UMP by working with Malaysian students abroad. Congratulations to all.

The new Malay International Language Organization student group is headed up by Brett McCabe (president), center, Colleen Gray (secretary), left, and Mary Thomas (treasurer), right. Not present for the picture was vice president Ryan Keller.
5. SEA Club officers for 2011–12 elected
The Southeast Asia Club has elected new officers for the 2011-12 academic year. They are: Michael Deinzer, president; Melanie Francia, vice president; Edward Reyes, treasurer; Jennifer Puetz, secretary; Matt Ropp, culture night coordinator; Robert Kollas, conference coordinator; and Derek Koegel, outreach. The club is still seeking a board member to handle its marketing and publicity, Deinzer said.

SEA Club members man the welcome table at Southeast Asia Culture Night on April 15.

6. A night to remember: Southeast Asian Culture Night at Wirtz Hall
The Southeast Asia Club's annual spring Southeast Asian Culture Night at Wirtz Hall on April 15 featured music, dance, shadow puppetry, and poetry reading performances. At left, Malay language students Jory Dukes, Collen Gray, and Charles Coleman perform three Malaysian dances with FLTA Jocelyn Sim, right. After the performances in the hall's auditorium, attendees feasted on Southeast Asian appetizers in the adjacent atrium. Those performing included NIU students and the four SEAYLP country groups.

Using Indonesian shadow puppets she made herself out of recycled materials, art graduate student Siew Lian Lim, left, brought “Marilah Kita Bercakap-cakap Tentang Trash” to life. Below, the beginning Indonesian class takes the stage to sing with the SEAYLP Indonesia group, led by FLTA Nanda Octavia (in red head scarf). (Photos / Julia Lamb)
7. Media position open at the center
CSEAS is accepting applications for a full-time communications and media specialist. The Supportive Professional Staff position requires a bachelor’s degree in journalism or communications, a minimum of three years relevant communications experience, and an interest in, and work experience related to, Southeast Asia. A letter of application, resume, and two letters of recommendation should be sent to CSEAS Office Manager by Friday, May 6.

8. Save the date: Summer genocide and human rights institute for teachers
- **June 16–18**: Registration is now open for the sixth annual Roger W. Smith Genocide and Human Rights Summer Institute for Teachers, sponsored by the center in partnership with NIU’s Genocide and Human Rights Institute. This year the institute, open to K-16 educators, will focus on Southeast Asia and Europe while still offering a broad overview of genocide and human rights abuses worldwide. The three-day program will be held at the Holmes Student Center. The registration deadline is June 8. For more details, see the conference website.

9. See the fall 2010/winter 2011 issue of Mandala online
Students go face to face with the ethnographic interview in Cambodia, the center forges new connections, anthropologist and center faculty associate Susan Russell becomes an honorary member of the Manobo tribe in the Philippines, and we look at some of the community projects initiated by past Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Program (SEAYLP) participants. You’ll find these stories, faculty news, and more in the latest issue of the center’s newsletter, The Mandala, online on the center website.

10. NIU alum receives Indonesian arts and culture scholarship
E. Peter Colina, a 2010 NIU graduate in economics with a Southeast Asian Studies minor, departed the U.S. April 25 for three months in Bandung, Indonesia, the only U.S. recipient of a 2011 Indonesian Arts and Culture Scholarship from the country’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The scholarship program aims to broaden global understanding of Indonesia and cultivate cultural cooperation by sharing Indonesian culture with scholarship recipients from around the world. Colina says that his minor in Southeast Asian Studies at NIU gave him an outlet to learn about the region. Colina will complete the scholarship program on July 29. Congratulations, Peter!
11. Art historian Richard Cooler leads last Burma group session Wednesday
NIU art historian emeritus and former Center for Burma Studies director Richard Cooler will discuss the arts of Burma at this week’s Wednesday Burma study group offered by NIU’s Lifelong Learning Institute. The study group will meet 1 to 3 p.m. May 4. For details, see the LLI website or e-mail LASEP@niu.edu.

12. Conferences and calls for papers
- **Visions of the Future, 11th International Conference on Thai Studies**, July 26–28, Bangkok. Hosted by Mahidol University and the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia. For details, see conference website.
- **Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs**, Oct. 28–30, St. Paul, MN. Annual conference at Macalester College invites submissions pertaining to Asia and its subregions from all academic disciplines. **Deadline for abstracts: June 1.** For details, see conference website.
- **Ninth International Conference on the Philippines**, May 22–25, 2012, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI. **Deadline for proposals and abstracts: Nov. 11.** Send to ICOPHIL Committee, Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing MI 48824-1035. For details, contact asiansc@msu.edu.
- **Fourth International Conference on Southeast Asia**, Dec. 6–7, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. “Positioning Southeast Asia in the Globalized World” is the theme of this conference organized by the University of Malaya Department of Southeast Asian Studies. **Deadline for abstracts: June 15.** Send to iconsea.um@gmail.com.

13. Area Southeast Asia cultural opportunities
- The **Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute** is a non-profit group dedicated to the education, preservation, and promotion of Thai culture and fine arts in the Chicago area through classes and performances. The group is located in the Boys and Girls Club, 3400 S. Emerald St., Chicago. For details, call 312-725-0640 or write Thai Cultural and Fine Arts Institute, 1960 Oak Knoll Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045.
- The Indonesian Consulate General 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 Heritage Museum and Killing Fields Memorial, 2831 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago. 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.*