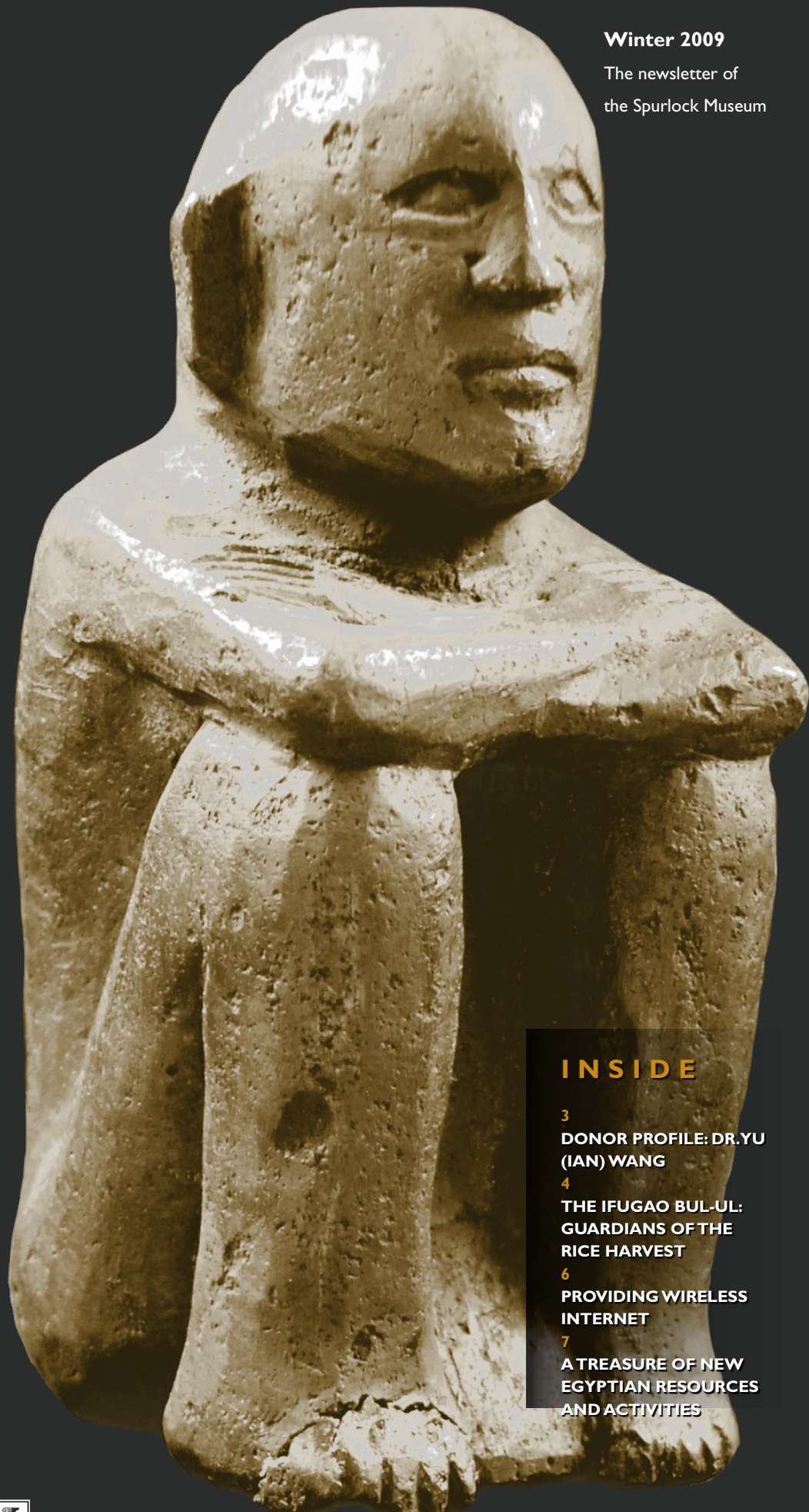


# SPURLOCK

MUSEUM

Winter 2009

The newsletter of  
the Spurlock Museum



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COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN





## A MESSAGE FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR

By Wayne Pitard, Director

As I approach the end of my first year as director of the Spurlock Museum, I am pleased to report that the Museum continues to flourish and move forward in its various missions. Each of our primary departments has made great strides this year.

Unusual circumstances have kept the Collections and Registration sections exceptionally busy during 2008. This summer, the provost provided the Museum with considerable added storage space and equipment, giving the Collections staff the opportunity to reorganize our storage and install a great deal of new shelving. In addition, the Museum has had an extraordinarily strong year in artifact donations, with nearly 500 new pieces having gone through the registration process. This number of artifacts is many times larger than our usual annual acquisition and includes a huge variety of object types. The Registration and Collections sections have worked diligently to document and preserve these new additions. We will be highlighting many of the new artifacts on our website and in our publications in the coming year.

The Education section continued to add new elements to its programs for schoolchildren and was particularly active in events related to our current focus exhibition, *Children Just Like Me*. The Museum hosted several major events focusing on children, including a gathering of children's authors in October, a superb lecture by Dr. Charlotte Cole, vice president of international education at Sesame Workshop, on the worldwide influence of *Sesame Street* in November, and a community collaborative celebration of children in December. Additional events will occur during spring semester as

well. In addition, the Education section has worked with Asian Educational Media Service to present a series of Asian films supplemented with lecture/discussion programs through the 2008-2009 academic year.

The Information Technology section has also been busy, revising our website to make it more accessible through a wider variety of new technologies and for the visually impaired. The Museum itself has become a wireless Internet location, so that patrons can make use of their computers throughout the building (more about this elsewhere in this newsletter).

The Knight Auditorium is also undergoing a major audio-visual upgrade. We are installing a stunning high-definition video projector, along with Blu-ray technology, and we are raising funds to add a greatly improved sound system, which eventually will include surround sound. This new equipment will make the Spurlock Museum one of the prime venues for film on campus.

The economic downturn this fall has cast its shadow across the University, and it has reminded us of how important private contributions to the Museum have been in helping us continue to pursue our goals. I want to thank you for your generous support for the Museum over the years and encourage you to continue to think of us in the future.

### WINTER 2009

#### WILLIAM R. AND CLARICE V. SPURLOCK MUSEUM

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Director, Wayne Pitard

Museum Hours:  
Tuesday: Noon - 5 pm  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9 am - 5 pm  
Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm  
Sunday: Noon - 4 pm  
Monday: closed

[www.spurlock.illinois.edu](http://www.spurlock.illinois.edu)

The newsletter for Spurlock Museum is published through the generous support of the Spurlock Museum Guild and the Spurlock Museum Board. Spurlock Museum Board Publication Committee: Dr. Yu (Ian) Wang, Robin Fossum, James Sinclair, Jenny Southlynn, and Brian Cudiamat. The newsletter is produced for the museum by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Office of Communications and Marketing (09.052).

On the cover: 2007.08.0016. Tibet. Tea kettle trimmed with decorative silver medallions. Ca. 17th-18th century.



## DONOR PROFILE

# Dr. Yu (Ian) Wang

By Jenny Southlynn

Dr. Yu Wang is the quintessential Renaissance man. Many know him as Ian Wang, and have likely seen him at nearly any art event of significance (and even some not so significant) in Champaign County. He has worked tirelessly as an art lover/promoter and a serious art collector for more than 20 years.

Locally, that passion has led Dr. Wang to collect works by area artists since 1995, when he began working as the general manager of Amerinvest International, LLC, one of the leading companies focusing on the economic redevelopment of the former Chanute U.S. Air Force Base in Rantoul.

Since 2000, Dr. Wang has served on the Board of Directors of the University of Illinois, Spurlock Museum. He served as president of the Board of Trustees from September 2006 to October 2008 and has also been a curator for the Museum's East Asian galleries.

Dr. Wang is among the members who conceived the *Spurlock Museum Magazine* and saw that vision to fruition. He continues to serve on the committee and contribute scholarly articles to the young publication.

More recently, Dr. Wang began writing an arts column for the *Rantoul Press*, an edition of the *News-Gazette* of Champaign County. That arts column earned Dr. Wang his second ACE Award in 2008 in the media category.

The ACE Awards are presented to recognize and celebrate outstanding contributions to the cultural life of Champaign County by 40 North | 88 West: Champaign County's Arts, Culture, and Entertainment Council. The awards are given out annually during National and Illinois Arts

and Humanities Month. The ACE awards honor the efforts of local individuals, businesses, artists, teachers, arts organizations, volunteers, and government and community leaders who enrich the culture of Champaign County through their hard work and creative energy. The nominations, made by the public, become the basis for the deliberations of an independent panel of seven community-based judges—representing a broad cross-section of Champaign County—who are charged with selecting each year's 40 North ACE Award winners. The ACE Awards honor outstanding achievements in seven categories: education, media, advocacy, spotlight, creative community service, business, and lifetime achievement.

Dr. Wang's first ACE Award, which he received in 2005, was the community advocate ACE, an award which highlights the individual or organization that has advocated on behalf of the arts effectively and consistently, and as a result has advanced the artistic and cultural lives of the people of Champaign County.

In addition, over the past two years, Dr. Wang has written and published three art books in the U.S. and in China. Each year, Dr. Wang curates about a half dozen art exhibitions from his own collections and for other artists. In 2008, he curated six art exhibitions, five locally and one internationally.

Upon his graduation in 1983 from the West China University of Medical Sciences in Chengdu, China, Dr. Wang started working as a researcher and an assistant professor at the teaching hospital of the same university.

During the first four years of his career, apart from teaching, Dr. Wang carried out several important research projects on socio-economic development and public health. These projects not only revealed much about health, disease, and issues of inequality in society, but also encouraged him to search for solutions. As a result, he published three books and many articles. In 1986, Dr. Wang won two national academic awards for advancing science and technology in social development and medicine in China.

In 1987, he was offered a position of visiting scholar at Oxford University in England. In the following years, he also completed his two master's degrees in social anthropology, epidemiology, and management of health care and his doctoral degree in social development and social policy. Since then, Dr. Wang has been working and specialized in the fields of socio-economic development and community medicine, management of social services, and health care.

In his academic career, Dr. Wang has worked as a professor at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland, Manchester University in England, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in the fields of community medicine, social development and social policy, and liberal arts and sciences. In April 2005, Dr. Wang's textbook, *Palliative Medicine*, for which he is a coeditor and coauthor, was published by the People's Health Publishing House in Beijing, China.



# THE IFUGAO GUARDIANS



FPO

Among the Spurlock Museum's thousands of fascinating artifacts not on display are some deity figures from the Philippines called bul-ul. The bul-ul are made by the Ifugao people of the mountainous region in the north of the country and are accompanied by a punam-han, a carved stone ritual box. The Ifugao people live in the Cordillera Central mountain range and are famous for the development of the millennia-old Banaue rice terraces, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These stepped hillside terraces represent the efforts of thousands of individual lifetimes. The Ifugao culture, because of its geographical inaccessibility, was affected little by the Spanish and American occupation of the Philippines. During World War II, their region became a battleground, and since that time the unique indigenous culture of the Ifugao has been threatened by outside influences such as mission work and the tourism industry. However, master carvers still create bul-ul images for ceremonial use and tourist purchase.



# BUL-UL: OF THE RICE HARVEST

By James Sinclair

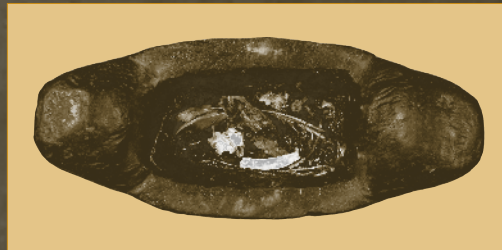
From left to right:

2007.08.0024B.3, 2007.08.0024A.3,  
2007.08.0024C-D Stone bul-ul figure. (front)

Wooden bul-ul rice guardian figure, gift of Drs.  
Albert V. and Marguerite Carozzi. 1990.10.0082

2007.08.000C.4 Box with offerings to the deities,  
including husks and feathers.

2007.08.0024B.3, 2007.08.0024A.3,  
2007.08.0024C-D Stone bul-ul figure. (back)



More than 1,500 gods can be found in the Ifugao pantheon, each covering a different aspect of life. The bul-ul watches over the production and storage of rice, and because rice constitutes such a critical part of the Ifugao diet, it is an extremely important deity. The image of the bul-ul sometimes is presented as a single figure and sometimes as a pair, assumed to be male and female, though depicted without anatomical differentiation. Bul-ul figures and ritual boxes are most often carved from the sacred wood of the narra tree (*Pterocarpus indica*).

Wooden images are the most common, and they are carved either sitting or standing, with a variety of hand and arm positions. The size ranges from under a foot high to several feet tall. Generally, the larger the rice field, the larger the bul-ul image. Very large images are often placed in close proximity to the fields, and smaller images reside in rice storage areas. Two wooden figures in the Museum's collection illustrate some of this physical variety. One of them is over two feet tall and sits on a roughly carved base (A). This figure's knees are

bent, and its arms are crossed with undefined hands resting on its knees. The facial features and ears are also undefined. The other wooden image is also seated, but is only about a foot tall and has well-defined features and large ears with holes in the lobes. It also wears a necklace tied with a light brown thread (B). Both figures have a hole in the top of their heads for holding a plug of hair, characteristic of the master carver Tagilung.

The Museum also has several stone bul-ul figures. One pair accompanies the punam-han. Each bul-ul is about 10 inches high and sits with knees raised and arms crossed, limbs distinct from the torsos. They include impressions of fingers and toes as well as eyes, nose, mouths, and large, protruding ears. Both figures have a raised lizard carved on their backs (C, D). Another stone figure in the Museum's collection is even smaller and sits in a similar posture. It has incised facial features, with even a hairline indicated. Each end of the trapezoidal stone ritual box features a carved bull's head with flat facial features. The lid and sides have a raised lizard, similar to that on the backs of

two of the stone figures (E). The symbolism of the lizards is not known. The box holds offerings to the deities, such as rice grains and husks, betel nuts, feathers, or the remains of a cremated chicken (F).

Bul-ul figures are surrounded by rituals, both during the process of carving and when they are placed in rice fields or granaries. During rice harvest ceremonies, the bul-ul is invoked as priests ask that the rice continue to grow in storage as it did in the fields. The bul-ul figures may be marked with the blood of sacrificial animals and doused with rice wine before they are placed in granaries to protect the crop from pests, theft, and weather.

#### Sources:

Ellis, George R. "Arts and Peoples of the Northern Philippines." *The People and Art of the Philippines*. Los Angeles: Museum of Cultural History at the University of California in Los Angeles, 1981. Gomez-Garcia, Pynky. "Northern Philippine Primitive Wooden Art." *Arts of Asia*. Vol. 13, No.3 (July-August 1983): 84-93. Palencia, Joaquin G. "Art as Life: The Ifugao Bul-ul." *The World of Tribal Arts*. <http://www.tribalarts.com/feature/ifugao>

## BEHIND THE SCENES: PROVIDING WIRELESS INTERNET By Jack Thomas



Providing wireless Internet access in the Spurlock Museum supports several important goals.

Wireless access means all visitors with a laptop or other wireless device with a Web browser can use our website and online resource collection in support of research and constructive learning. For example, visitors can look at our Balinese barong ket, a huge lion-like costume worn in dramas in the Southeast Asian cultures gallery and immediately access our online module, "Journeying through Balinese Lives," to see video of the artifact in use in its original context. Wireless makes it easier for special event guests and lecturers to retrieve their presentation materials, freeing up staff from worrying about configuring files and guests' computers. Coverage in the galleries enables Registration and Education staff to more easily conduct object inventories and plan and revise exhibit labels. As a destination for learning and social interaction, the Spurlock Museum is also proud to follow the model set by many public buildings (libraries and schools, hospitals, coffee shops, etc.) to create a comfort-

able and convenient environment in which people wish to linger and enjoy our facilities.

In the behind-the-scenes work areas of the Museum, wireless coverage means that Collections staff can access our databases no matter where they are, even from the actual storage location of artifacts. This aspect saves time running from storage to work stations while allowing artifacts to remain in their safe locations rather than be moved to desks when someone needs to be near the artifacts in order to work on files. Rooms for collections reviews and meetings are now more convenient for visiting scholars and curators who bring their own equipment. Additionally, the Information Technology staff has a much easier time servicing multiple computers at one time, working on as many as 10 machines in a room with a single network jack.

As the Museum continues to anticipate new projects, getting this infrastructure in place now should make us more flexible and better able to respond to needs and opportunities in the future. For example, we can integrate more resource kiosks throughout exhibit spaces and not be tied

to locations near jacks. Wireless might also enable us to make building-wide event or emergency announcements.

Our wireless access is provided using the standard campus system, UIUCnet, and an add-on called UI Public Wireless. UIUCnet works at the Spurlock Museum in the same way it works on the rest of campus, making access for University staff, faculty, and students a familiar process for anyone who has used wireless anywhere else on campus. UI Public Wireless is a supplemental, low-volume wireless access network for units to provide as a convenience to visitors to the University. We pay an extra fee for this special service, but it opens up access to people without NetIDs—that is, anyone who could possibly walk through our doors.

While the main focus of this project was to provide wireless connectivity, we also took the opportunity to upgrade much of the building's network equipment. The new equipment, in addition to using newer technologies that will carry us further into the future, is managed by CITES, providing cheap, around-the-clock support, and lessening the burden on our IT section.

## SPURLOCK MUSEUM GUILD UPDATE

The Spurlock Museum Guild celebrated its 17<sup>th</sup> annual auction on October 4, 2008, at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center in Urbana. The auction theme was "Children of the World," which corresponded with the Museum's participation in the campus children's literacy program. Our Guild co-chairs for the event were Dr. Tony and Joannie Michalos, who did an outstanding job of coordinating all the donations and event organization. Guild members participated in many meetings to prepare for the auction along with securing donations, sending mailings, and planning food preparation. A special treat of the evening was a wonderful performance by the Central Illinois Children's Chorus and their artistic director, Charmian Bulley. Two very popular items that were auctioned were sponsorships of school buses to bring students to the Museum and plats of flowers for the Museum gardens. The auction raised over \$30,000, which will help



Spurlock garden volunteers perform fall cleanup with Lincoln Challenge Academy cadets. (Left to right: Robin Fossum, Inga Giles, Dominic Skaperdas, Walt Myers, Monika Vanko.)

support Museum education programs. We were all thrilled with the success of the auction.

Led by guild member Jane Myers, several members have participated in the gardening committee and have worked through the year on the surrounding Museum gardens. The largest event occurred on a cold November morning when three large truckloads of mulch were distributed throughout the gardens. With special help from 30 cadets from the Lincoln's Challenge Academy in Rantoul, the hard work

went quickly. Thank you to the following Guild members for their generous help: Jane Myers, Helen Burch, Inga Giles, Astrid Dussinger, Robin Fossum, Dominic Skaperdas, Walt Myers, and Monica Vanko.

Guild members held a holiday party at the Museum on December 18. Through the ice, snow, and rain, members, spouses, and guests came to join together for holiday friendship and refreshments. Entertainment was provided by the Holiday Violins: Urbana High School juniors Katarina Marjanovic and Gabriela Chavez, along with Robin Fossum. The guild will hold two more events before summer 2009: a winter tea in February, and a dean's luncheon in May.

The Guild currently has 88 members. If you are interested in joining the Spurlock Guild, please contact Guild treasurer Robert Fossum at: robertfossum@gmail.com. Dues are \$25 per year, supporting members \$50 per year.

**Robin Fossum, co-president**  
**Claire Skaperdas, co-president**





Some of our new teaching artifacts from the British Museum.

## A TREASURE OF NEW EGYPTIAN RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES



In support of educational programming inspired by the fall 2007 Campbell Gallery exhibit *Ancient Egypt: The Origins*, the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

provided the Museum with \$4,500 in federal Title VI funds for outreach programming about ancient Egypt. With this generous gift, the Museum's Education section has been able to offer several new programs for schools and the public, and purchase a tremendous variety of educational materials about this favorite time and place in history.

While the predynastic Egyptian exhibit was up in fall 2007, educator Beth Watkins developed a special exhibit program for students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade to explore this obscure early time period and connect it to the well-known features of later Egyptian culture like pyramids and mummies. Following an interactive timeline on the Museum's grand staircase, students moved from the familiar pharaonic Egypt back through time to explore more ancient artifacts and art.

Online shopping gave us access to the shops of museums with world-renowned Egyptian collections like the Oriental Institute in Chicago, the British Museum, and the Louvre. More than 100 exciting new items—from books and films to games and artifact replicas—are now available for classroom loans and use with visitors in our galleries. Shabtris (servant figurines placed in tombs), amulets, maps, puzzles, a pop-up book, a touchable Rosetta stone, a mummy model with removable organs, and many more are just waiting to be played with.

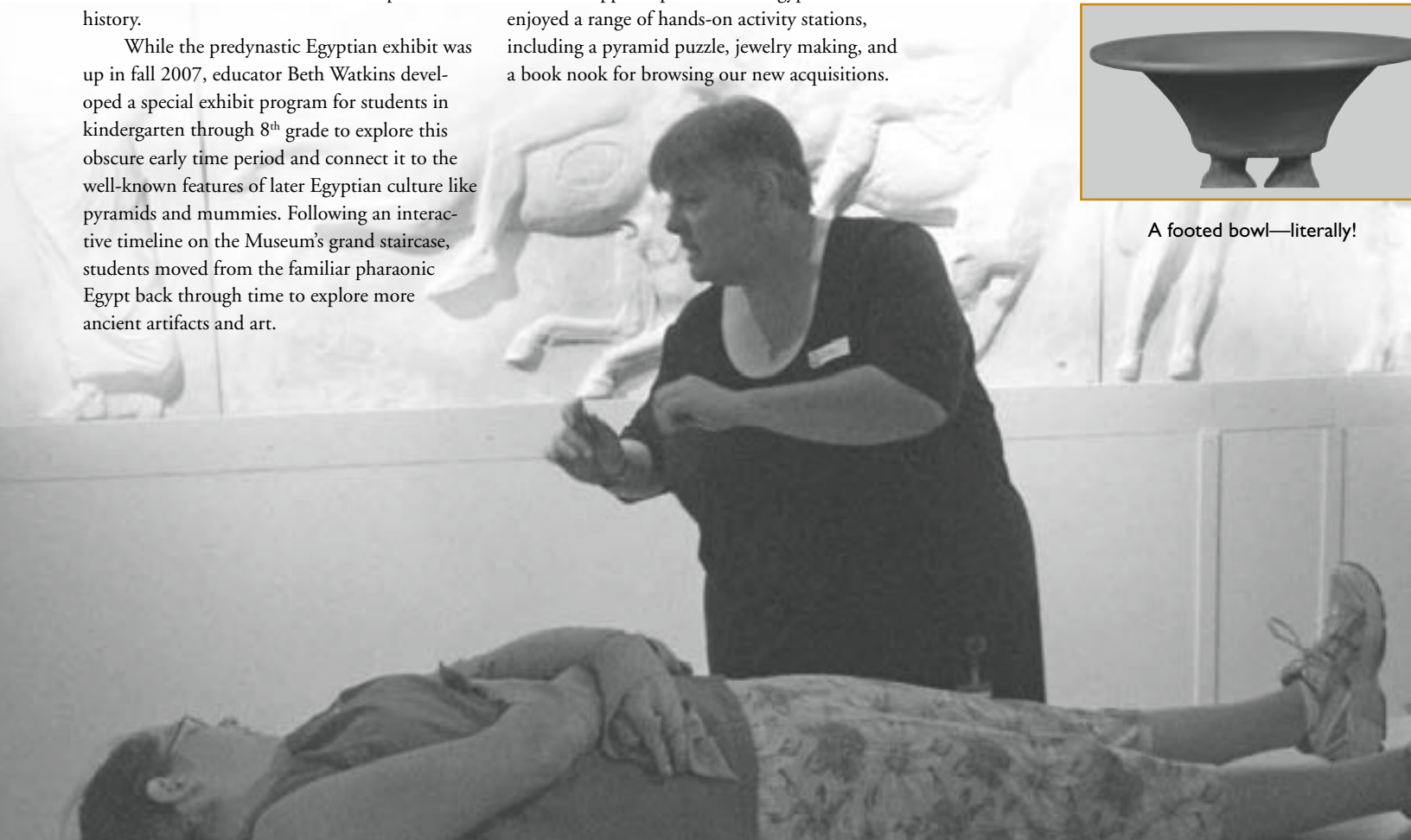
Inspired by our new collections, Education staff members Kim Sheahan and Beth Watkins developed a new, all-Egypt public program called "Wrapped Up in Ancient Egypt." Families enjoyed a range of hands-on activity stations, including a pyramid puzzle, jewelry making, and a book nook for browsing our new acquisitions.

In the galleries, Kim "mummified" willing volunteers, kids created model tombs and packed them for the afterlife, and our student staff presented a table full of materials used in mummification and other aspects of daily life, like essential oils, beeswax, linen, frankincense, and cinnamon, for visitors to taste, smell, and touch.

Later in the summer, Spurlock Museum partnered with Krannert Art Museum to run a hands-on Egypt activity at our shared booth at the Champaign Park District Downtown Festival of the Arts. About 300 visitors made mini-mummies and decorated sarcophagi. Both museums brought hands-on resources for decoration inspiration and browsing.



A footed bowl—literally!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Heirlooms, Artifacts, and Family Treasures: A Preservation Emporium

Saturday, February 21, 2009 • Noon–4:00 p.m.  
Organized by the Preservation Working Group of the University of Illinois, this informational event welcomes visitors to meet and talk with preservation specialists whose expertise ranges from antiquities to modern digital media. Have you ever wondered how to preserve that old film of family memories or take care of Grandma's quilt? Bring your small, hand-held items to the Museum or come with images of larger items and have your preservation questions answered by the presenting experts. For further information, contact Jennifer Teper at (217) 244-5689.

## Spurlock Museum WorldFest 2009

Saturday, February 28, 2009 • 12:30–4:00 p.m.  
Music, stories, dance, and crafts—fun for the whole family. This year's spring festival promises to be as popular and entertaining as those in past years, celebrating the wondrous variety of performance arts practiced around the world and offering hands-on activities for everyone.

Featured Performances:

- Polish music and dance by the Lira Ensemble
- Chinese Silk-and-Bamboo Ensemble, directed by Priscilla Tse
- Mande Drumming Ensemble, directed by Moussa Bolokada Conde
- Folktales with Kim Sheahan

\$5 requested donation

## Boneyard Arts Festival at the Spurlock Museum

Saturday, April 18, 2009 • 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.  
In conjunction with the exhibit *Children Just Like Me*, young performers from surrounding communities will entertain visitors in the Museum's galleries and Knight Auditorium. Performance groups include students from the Conservatory of Central Illinois, local Chinese dancers, and members of Music without Borders, an amazing ensemble of young musicians from Bottenfield and South Side schools. All public performance events are sponsored in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. For more information on all exhibits, programs, and events, please visit the Museum's website ([www.spurlock.illinois.edu](http://www.spurlock.illinois.edu)), the online calendar of events, and future printed publications.

## AsiaLENS: AEMS Documentary and Independent Film Series

Screening at the Spurlock 2008–2009  
This series of public film screenings and lecture/discussion programs is organized by the Asian Educational Media Service (AEMS) at the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. It is planned in collaboration with the Spurlock Museum and presented in the Knight Auditorium. Among the films offered for discussion this year, several were chosen with the exhibit *Children Just Like Me* in mind because of the meaningful and often dramatic ways in which they focus on youth and childhood experiences. Guest scholars and members of the campus and C-U communities will introduce the films and lead post-screening audience discussions.

Tuesday, March 3, 2009 • 7:00 p.m.

*Kabul Transit* (David Edwards, Maliha Zulfacar, Gregory Whitmore, 2007, 84 minutes)

From a black-market entrepreneur to a jaded policeman, the diversity found on the streets of Kabul, Afghanistan, is revealed in this film—a glimpse of what it is like to live in a place that has seen more war than peace for more than a generation.

Tuesday, April 7, 2009 • 7:00 p.m.

*The Last Ghost of War* (Janet Gardner, 2006, 54 minutes)

Following the legacy of Agent Orange into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, *The Last Ghost of War* reveals the devastating impact of this chemical defoliant on the generations living beyond its initial Vietnam War victims.

FPO Caption can go here



## SPURLOCK MUSEUM

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