

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2017

Contact:

Elizabeth Bazan

Elizabeth.Bazan@illinois.gov

217-782-0061

Program at Illinois State Museum on Ancient History of Central Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois State Museum’s monthly Paul Mickey Science Series program for April is “**Just Outside Cahokia (There's an Ancient History of Illinois)**” exploring the history of the Mississippian people in central Illinois.

"Greater Cahokia" – the giant three-part metropolitan area that arose near St. Louis starting around 950 AD – has long been the focus of study of the Mississippian people. With the 300-year history of the southwestern Illinois Cahokian metropolis becoming well known, more attention is shifting to central Illinois in the time before, during, and after Cahokia.

For researchers, these are exciting times. Seven institutions are currently working on the 500-year-long Mississippian history of central Illinois, providing information on 21 prehistoric towns in the mid-state.

Dr. Duane Esarey, Assistant Director of the Illinois State Archaeological Survey, will present the free program in the auditorium of the Illinois State Museum in Springfield on Wed., April 12 at 7:00 p.m.

For additional information, phone 217-782-0061 or email events@illinoisstatemuseum.org.

The Illinois State Museum is located at 502 South Spring St., in the State Capitol Complex in Springfield.