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Carleton ASIA Club
Carleton Coalition of Hmong Students
St. Olaf Hmong Culture Outreach

FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Professor Naran Bilik
Professor Rika Ito
Professor Carolyn Wong

ORGANIZERS & VOLUNTEERS

Chai Lee, Christine Yang, Christopher Wilmot, Derek Vang, Dung Mao, Fue Thao, Gao Yang, Haihua Hao, Jay Xiong, John Vang, Khullani Abdullahi, Kristen Askeland, Mai Ka Moua, Mena Xiong, Michelle Deeter, Nou Her, PaChia Yang, Phoebe Jean Wilmot, SeeYee Yang, Seng Moua, Sicelo (Cello) Masango, Tsongfw Moua, Vang Xiong, Wayne Soon, and Yen Cao.

***Many thanks to Tricia Peterson for her expert and generous assistance in the overall planning of this conference.**

Building Scholarship and Cross-Campus Connections

Conference on Southeast Asian Americans



* Photo courtesy of: Asian Pacific Environmental Network

*"Too often, different voices and cultures
become hidden or silenced in America,
when they have much to offer."*

-- Allen James, 2002 Tamejavi Festival participant

Carleton College
May 12, 2007 - May 13, 2007

PROGRAM

Saturday, May 12th, 2007

Continental Breakfast (Leighton Hall, 3rd floor)

Opening Plenary Session (Leighton Hall 305)

8:30 – 8:40 a.m.

Welcome by Carleton College
Associate Dean Elizabeth Ciner

Keynote Lectures

8:40 – 9:40 a.m.

Professor Mai Na Lee

“Tracing History with the Rhinoceros Horn”

Ms. Hai Binh Nguyen

“From Saigon to Chicago to Stanford:
Why I Became a Community Organizer”

Questions & Answers

Description of Day’s Events

9:40 – 10:00 a.m.

Morning Panels

10:10 – 11:50 a.m.

(*For details, turn to page 5)

Lunch (Great Hall, Severance Hall)

11:55 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.

Professor Kou Yang

“Personal Reflections on Southeast
Asian American Studies”

Mr. Penh Lo

“Born in Laos—But Not Laotian:
The Southeast Asian Diaspora”

BIOGRAPHIES

Richard Keiser is a Professor of Political Science and Director of American Studies at Carleton College. Professor Keiser received his Ph.D. from the University of California – Berkeley in 1989. In 1997 he published *Subordination or Empowerment?* and co-edited *Minority Politics at the Millennium* in 2000. His current research examines the relationship between cities and suburbs in the current era. Professor Keiser teaches the introductory course on liberty and equality in America, as well as courses on urban and suburban political economy, poverty and public policy, and the Presidency.

Seunjoo Yoon is an Associate Professor of History at Carleton College. He received his B.A. from Seoul National University and his Ph.D. in History from Harvard University. His research focuses on modern China, East Asian history, Japan, Korea, Central Asia, and international relations. He has served as a member of the editorial board of *Papers in Chinese History* and staff writer for *Hangyore 21* (One Nation: Twenty-First Century). His book manuscript, *Commissioners, Communication, and Confucian Commitment* is currently under review at Harvard’s Asia Center, and he has published several articles on imperial China.

Tou Ger Xiong is America’s first Hmong comedian, rapper, and cultural diversity consultant. He received a B.A. in Political Science from Carleton College in 1996. Tou Ger’s *Project Respectism* uses comedy, storytelling, and rap music to bridge cultures and generations. While at Carleton, he took his message to schools, churches, libraries, colleges, and community groups throughout the Midwest. *Project Respectism* now provides cultural entertainment and education for people of all professions and backgrounds. He has given over 800 presentations nationwide to audiences of all ages and ethnic backgrounds, sometimes reaching as many as 8,000 people in a week.

Tun Myint is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis and a Senior Fellow at the Burma Center for Law and Democracy at Indiana University – Bloomington, where he earned three degrees: a BA in Political Science and East Asian Studies, an MPA in Public Affairs from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs in 1999, and a Ph.D. in Law and Social Science jointly at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and School of Law in 2005. He is a member of the Biocomplexity Project at the Center for Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change (CIPEC) at Indiana University. Among his recent publications is the chapter, “Environmental Governance in SPDC’s Myanmar,” in Wilson and Skidmore (eds), *Myanmar: The State, Society, and the Environment*.

Watching Leona was founded by Xeev Xwm Vaj in 2002, with his best friend (the guitar) by his side, he dreamed of something bigger than playing lonely ballads within the walls of his bedroom. At the same time, Meng Yang found himself with some free time after a brief two-year stint with a promising but struggling boy band. With music still fresh and moving within their blood, they decided to join talents and start something new, something that was still undefined but would fulfill some emptiness. The band consists of Xeev Xwm Vaj (guitar), Meng Yang (vocals), Chue Shee Vang (drums), Nyia Thao (bass), and Meng Vang (guitar).

BIOGRAPHIES

development of a strong French-Hmong relation in the highland zones of Indochina. She is currently completing her book manuscript, *Highlanders and Colonial Masters: Hmong Negotiate the Emerging Lao State*, which is the first of a three part series on the history of the Hmong. Subsequent manuscripts will focus on the “Secret War” and the exile politics of Hmong Americans as they struggle for identity and cultural survival in America.

Mee Moua is the first and highest ranking Hmong American elected official in the United States. She currently represents District 67 in the Minnesota State Senate. Her legislative accomplishments include funding for the Phalen Corridor and Metropolitan State University Library, making it easier to build affordable housing, and improving tax policies for low income Minnesotans. She also fought to protect civil rights and to secure funding for crime victims. Senator Moua has served as Majority Whip, Vice-chair of the Transportation Policy and Budget Committee, and as a member on the Tax Committee and the Health and Family Security Committee. She has degrees from Brown University, a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Texas – Austin, and a law degree from the University of Minnesota. Senator Moua is a member of the Democratic National Committee and a board member on the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

Naran Bilik is the Jane & Raphael Bernstein Professor of Asian Studies and Anthropology at Carleton College. He received his M.A. in Ethnology and Ph.D. in Linguistics from the Central University of Nationalities in Beijing. He was a post-doctoral fellow at Cambridge University (1992-1994), and he conducted fieldwork in Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Guangxi and Yunnan. He has worked as a consultant with World Bank and UNDP. Some recent publications include *Minority on the Move*, authored with Robyn Iredale et al.; “Language, Ethnicity and Internal Frontiers: Schooling Civil Society among China’s Minorities” in *Manufacturing Citizenship: Education and Nationalism in Europe, South Asia and China*; and “The Ethnicity of Anthropology in China,” in *Critique of Anthropology*, 2002.

Pakou Hang is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. On leave from her doctoral studies, Pakou Hang is currently running for a seat on the Saint Paul City Council. She completed her B.A. in Political Science at Yale in 1999. She served as a deputy political director to Senator Paul Wellstone and campaign manager for Senator Mee Moua when she successfully ran for the Minnesota legislature. In 2003, she received the Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Award from the University of Minnesota.

Rika Ito is an Assistant Professor of Japanese and Asian Studies at Saint Olaf College. She received a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Michigan State University after earning a BA in English from Hokusei Gakuen University. She was a post-doctoral research fellow at University of York. She has worked on phonological change in American English (Northern Cities Vowel Shift), morpho-syntactic variation in British English, discourse analysis in Japanese, and variation in self-reference terms in Japanese children’s speech. She recently initiated fieldwork in the Twin Cities to examine Hmong-Americans’ speech.

PROGRAM

Afternoon Panels

1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

(*For details, turn to page 6)

Conference Break (free time)

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

(Time to attend Carleton’s International Festival featuring free food & cultural performances in Great Space, Sayles-Hill)

Late Afternoon Plenary Session (Leighton 305)

4:30 – 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Tou Ger Xiong, Mr. Jay Xiong, and
Professor Tun Myint
“Racial Justice, Human Rights, and
Community Empowerment”

Dinner (Great Hall, Severance Hall)

6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

A Message from Dr. Yang Dao

Lecture by the Honorable Mee Moua,
Minnesota State Senator

“You Can Make a Difference:
Scholarship and Civic Engagement in
Southeast Asian Communities”

Evening Cultural Performance (Concert Hall)

8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Tou Ger Xiong

“Hmong Elvis, James Brown, and Michael Jackson:
Addressing Racial Issues through Humor, Storytelling,
Dance and Hip Hop”

Musical Performance (Concert Hall)

10:30 p.m.

Watching Leona

PROGRAM

Sunday, May 13, 2007

Continental Breakfast (Leighton Hall, 3rd floor)

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Reflections (Leighton Hall 305)

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Depart for lunch in Saint Paul

11:30 a.m.

Meet in front of Sayles-Hill to depart

Rides from Saint Paul to Airport

2:00 p.m.

For **student panel session descriptions**, please turn to pages 5 & 6 and for **biographies**, turn to pages 7 – 10.



*Photo: The image on the front cover of this program was provided by Mari Rose Taruc and the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) in Oakland, CA. This image depicts the rescue efforts after Katrina in New Orleans when the Vietnamese community mobilized itself in recovery efforts. This image was used for APEN's "Rising to the Challenge, Raising Our Voices" campaign about the vital environmental justice struggle of the Vietnamese community in New Orleans.

BIOGRAPHIES

and has taught Social Work at the University of New South Wales and Social Anthropology at Macquarie University. He has also worked with Indochinese young refugees and children on both paid and voluntary basis since their settlement in Australia in 1975. Professor Lee has not only published extensively in academic journals, but he is also a poet and fiction writer. Three recently published books that he authored or co-edited are the novel *Dust of Life: A True Ban Vinai Love Story*; *Hmong/Miao in Asia*, and *The Hmong People of Australia: Culture and Diaspora*.

Greg Filice is a Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Infectious Disease Section of the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, of the University of Minnesota Medical School. Dr. Filice received his infectious disease training at Stanford University School of Medicine and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation. He served as an epidemiologist for the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He created a youth-led, youth run project to prevent tobacco use among adolescents and teens. His current research is on improving antimicrobial prescribing and consequences of antimicrobial resistance. With Choua Lee, the first Hmong person to hold elected office in the U.S., Dr. Filice served on the St. Paul School Board from 1992-2000, when the public schools had the responsibility and opportunity to provide quality education for thousands of new Hmong students.

Hai Binh Nguyen is a community organizer at the Asian Pacific Environmental Network in Oakland, California. She received her B.A. at Stanford in 2005, where she majored in Asian American Studies and earned a co-terminal M.A. in Cultural and Social Anthropology. At Stanford, she was a leader in campus progressive politics, playing an active role in the Stanford Asian American Activism Committee, the Stanford Labor Action Coalition, Students of Color Coalition, and Asian American Student Association. She helped found VietUnity in Oakland California, which is an organization working to empower the Vietnamese American community in its effort to achieve affordable housing, health care, and workers' rights.

Kou Yang is an Associate Professor of Asian American Studies, Ethnic and Gender Studies Department, California State University – Stanislaus. Professor Yang has more than 15 years of experience in the fields of human services, including 13 years of social work practice in various social service settings with Fresno County Department of Social Services and Department of Mental Health. He earned his Ed.D. in education leadership from the Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership of California State University, Fresno; and the University of California at Davis.

Mai Na Lee graduated with a B.A. in History and a Women's and Gender Studies concentration from Carleton College in 1994 and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Wisconsin – Madison in 2005. Her major field of concentration is Southeast Asia. Currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Minnesota, in the fall of 2007, she will take up the post of Assistant Professor of History and Asian American Studies. Her dissertation, *The Dream of the Hmong Kingdom: Resistance, Collaboration, and Legitimation under French Colonialism (1893-1955)*, combines oral and archival sources to explore the origin and

BIOGRAPHIES

Adrienne Falcón is a Visiting Lecturer (University of Chicago, ABD) at Carleton College. She has conducted research on a diverse immigrant community in Chicago and on youth and education in Cuba and Ecuador. Her current research focuses on questions of power and social change through community organizing. Her interest in environmental issues has involved working in both urban and rural communities as an organizer. At Carleton, she teaches courses in Introductory Sociology, Urban Sociology and Ethnography of Latin America.

Carolyn Wong is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Carleton College. She taught Political Science and Asian American Studies at Stanford after receiving her Ph.D. in Political Science from UCLA in 1997. She earned a B.A. in History from City College of New York, and a M.S. in Technology Policy at M.I.T. She was a Brookings Research Fellow at the Brookings Institution from 1995-96. Her recent book, *Lobbying for Inclusion: Rights Politics and the Making of Immigration Policy*, examines the role of ethnic advocates in U.S. immigration politics. She is currently studying the nature of pan-ethnic Asian American identity, migration politics, and the nature of civic and political participation in Hmong communities in the U.S., Australia, and France.

Dao Yang is generally known as Dr. Yang Dao, and is the first Hmong individual ever to receive a Ph.D., which he earned from the University of Paris – Sorbonne in 1972. Dr. Yang Dao headed the Human Resource Department of the Ministry of Planning in the Lao Royal Government and was a member of the Laotian National Congress in the early 1970s. Since 1983, he has lived in the Twin Cities, MN, serving on the staff of the University of Minnesota's College of Education and the College of Liberal Arts, on the faculties of Hamline University and Metropolitan State University. He is currently on the faculty of the University of Minnesota's Department of Asian Languages and Literatures. In addition to numerous articles, Dr. Yang Dao has authored and co-authored several books in French and English: *The Hmong of Laos in the Vanguard of Development*; *The Fabulous Adventure of the Poppy People*; *The Dragon, the Master of Sky and his Seven Daughters*; *French-Hmong Dictionary*; *Handbook for Teaching Hmong-Speaking Students*; *Minority Cultures of Laos*; *Hmong at the Turning Point*; and *Hmong/Miao in Asia*.

Devashree (Dev) Gupta is an Instructor of Political Science at Carleton College. She is completing her Ph.D. in Government at Cornell University. Her dissertation, titled *Militant Flanks and Moderate Centers: The Struggle for Power and Influence in Nationalist Movements* examines intra-movement rivalry and factionalism in Northern Ireland and South Africa. Her main research interests include nationalism, social movements, ethnic conflict, and political extremism. She has published her work in *The Chicago Policy Review*, *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, and *Comparative European Politics*.

Gary Yia Lee is the first Scholar-in-Residence at the Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University and the second Hmong individual to ever receive a Ph.D., which he earned at the University of Sydney in Social Anthropology and Community Development in 1981. He served as a visiting fellow in Anthropology to the Australian National University, Canberra from 2001-2002,

FOOD MENU

Lunch

Vegetarian Spring Rolls
Vietnamese Sandwich with
Barbecue Pork or Tofu, Cucumbers.
Shrimp Egg Rolls
Fried Chicken Wings
Soft Drinks

Lunch: \$8.00

*Payable in advance or at the door.

Dinner

Steak and Pepper
Mixed Vegetables with White Sauce
Sesame Chicken
Broccoli and Oyster Sauce
Rice
Vietnamese Pastries for Dessert
Soft Drinks

Dinner: \$12.00

*Payable in advance or at the door.

All food menu items catered by *Song Long, Chinese and Vietnamese Cuisine* in Apple Valley (952-891-2688).

MORNING PANEL SESSIONS (10:10 – 11:50 a.m.)

Panel 1: Politics and Civic Participation (Leighton 305)

Discussants: Professor Gary Yia Lee and Ms. Pakou Hang
Moderator: Professor Carolyn Wong

Mai Ka Moua, Carleton College
Senior, Sociology/Anthropology Major

“Hmong Civic Groups: A New Model for
Community Empowerment in the Twin Cities Hmong Community”

Yang Lor, Stanford University
Junior, Sociology Major

“A Comparative Analysis of Hmong Political Involvement
in California and Minnesota”

Panel 2: Transnational Linkages, Family and Community (Leighton 303)

Discussants: Dr. Yang Dao and Professor Naran Bilik

Tan Nguyen, University of California – Irvine
Senior, Asian American Studies and Biology Major
“The Effects of the Double Marriage Squeeze
on 1.5 and Second Generation Vietnamese Americans
and Its Implications for Transnational Marriages”

GaoNue Xiong, Macalester College
Junior, American Studies Major

“An Imagined Community:
Locating a Hmong ‘Nation’ Through Hmong Media”

Chai Lee, Carleton College
Sophomore, Political Science – International Relations Major
“Vietnamese Nationalism and Its Effects Within
Ethnic Vietnamese Expatriate Communities”

Panel 3: Homeland Politics and Transnational Linkages (Leighton 330)

Discussants: Dr. Tun Myint
Moderator: Professor Rich Keiser

Jonathan Eidsvaag, Carleton College
Junior, Political Science – International Relations Major
“New Media and Agency: Bypassing Big Brother in Burma”

Linda Tran, Stanford University
B.A. in Asian American Studies (2006) and co-terminal M.A. student in Sociology
“The Displacement of Vietnamese American Politics”

Wayne Soon, Carleton College
Junior, History and Political Science-International Relations Major
“Selective Globalization and Transnational
Human Rights Activism in Singapore”

AFTERNOON PANEL SESSIONS (1:15 – 3:00 p.m.)

Panel 1: Identity and Culture (Leighton 303)

Discussants: Dr. Yang Dao, Professor Gary Yia Lee, and
Professor Rika Ito (Moderator)

Eric Yang, University of California – Los Angeles
Senior, Sociology and Southeast Asian Studies Major

“Recreating Hmong History: An Examination of www.youtube.com Videos”

Lue Vang, University of California – Santa Cruz
Senior, Anthropology Major

“Hmong Mushroom Pickers:
Knowledge and Cosmology Live in the Social Landscape”

Panel 2: Vietnamese Americans in the Gulf Coast (Leighton 305)

Discussants: Professor Adrienne Falcón and Professor Naran Bilik
Moderator: Professor Dev Gupta

Linda Tran, Stanford University
B.A. in Asian American Studies (2006) and co-terminal M.A. student in Sociology
“The Model Katrina Victim: Disaster, Displacement, and the
Perpetual Vietnamese Refugee”

Yen Cao, Carleton College
Junior, Sociology/Anthropology Major
“An Assessment of Vietnamese Community Building,
Post-Katrina in New Orleans”

Janet Vo, University of Massachusetts – Boston
Senior, History and Asian American Studies Major
“Post-Katrina Gulf Coast Vietnamese Community Rebuilding:
Education and the Role of Vietnamese American Studies”

Panel 3: Social Conditions and Policy (Leighton 330)

Discussants: Professor Kou Yang and Dr. Greg Filice
Moderator: Professor Carolyn Wong

Fue Thao, Carleton College
Junior, Economics Major
“The Hmong Home: A Case Study on the Effects of
Public Housing on Hmong Immigrants”

Dung Mao, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
Senior, Child Psychology Major
“Adolescents’ and Parents’ Perceptions
of Delinquency in Hmong Families”

Mai Ger Moua, University of Wisconsin – Madison
B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in Asian American Studies (2005)
“Hmong Refugee Resettlement to Wausau, Wisconsin: 1970-2000”