This event has been made possible thanks to the support of the Luce Foundation, the University of Minnesota’s Imagine Fund for Special Events, Asian American Studies Program, Immigration History Research Center and Archives (IHRC), the Institute for Advanced Study, the Hmong Studies Consortium, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

THE CONSORTIUM FOR HMONG STUDIES PRESENTS:

THE SECOND HMONG STUDIES CONFERENCE

“HMONG ACROSS BORDERS”

Friday, October 5 - Saturday, October 6, 2013
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Minneapolis, Minnesota
## WEST BANK (7 Corners / Cedar-Riverside area)

### SET-DOWN RESTAURANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bullwinkle's Saloon</td>
<td>1429 Washington Ave.</td>
<td>612-338-8520</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Corner Bar</td>
<td>1501 Washington Ave.</td>
<td>612-339-4333</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Grill Room</td>
<td>1500 Washington Ave.</td>
<td>612-333-4646</td>
<td><a href="http://www.metrodome.com/accessories">www.metrodome.com/accessories</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Times Café</td>
<td>1821 Riverside Ave.</td>
<td>612-341-9261</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewel of India</td>
<td>1427 Washington Ave.</td>
<td>612-339-0022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killimanjaro Cafe</td>
<td>324 Cedar Ave.</td>
<td>612-333-2211</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>K Wok</td>
<td>1813 Riverside Ave.</td>
<td>612-338-4238</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livington's</td>
<td>2037 Riverside Ave.</td>
<td>612-333-5862</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucky Dragon</td>
<td>1827 Riverside Ave.</td>
<td>612-375-1690</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mai's Kona House</td>
<td>614 - 122 Cedar Ave.</td>
<td>612-339-9385</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Sea Bar</td>
<td>320 Cedar Ave.</td>
<td>612-333-1644</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverside Cafe</td>
<td>329 Cedar Ave.</td>
<td>612-332-4555</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt. Preston's</td>
<td>221 Cedar Ave.</td>
<td>612-338-6146</td>
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### FAST FOOD / CHAIN RESTAURANTS

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<th>Restaurant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chipotle</td>
<td>229 Cedar Ave.</td>
<td>612-659-7180</td>
<td><a href="http://www.chipotle.com">www.chipotle.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy John's</td>
<td>2037 Riverside Ave.</td>
<td>612-344-4444</td>
<td><a href="http://www.jimmyjohn.com">www.jimmyjohn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noodles &amp; Company</td>
<td>233 Cedar Ave.</td>
<td>612-659-7777</td>
<td><a href="http://www.noodles.com">www.noodles.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wiesry</td>
<td>414 Cedar Ave.</td>
<td>612-333-5798</td>
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### COFFEE HOUSES

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<th>Restaurant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heavenly Daze Coffee House</td>
<td>1853 Washington Ave.</td>
<td>612-341-1106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapps Coffee &amp; Teas</td>
<td>1810 Riverside Ave.</td>
<td>612-338-6398</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Dear Conference Participants,

A big welcome from the Consortium for Hmong Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and the University of Wisconsin—Madison. It’s great to be back on the Minnesota campus and in the Twin Cities, the Hmong capital of the world. This conference is a return home journey for me. If you would recall, faculties of the University of Minnesota, most of who have now retired, made history in 1981 when they held the very first research conference on the Hmong which resulted in the publication of The Hmong in the West (1982). A subsequent and equally historic second conference in 1983 also resulted in another book, The Hmong in Transition (1986). As an entering freshman at Carleton College in 1990, I relied on these two works to guide my interest in the Hmong. Over the years, I have read the books with passion. Today, these two collections remain foundational works on the Hmong. Those of us here build upon these findings; we each add our stitches on to the Hmong fabric (paj ntaub).

There have been numerous changes in the Hmong American community. The most striking shift I have observed has been in the desire to return “home” to Laos. This dream seems to have ebbed gradually as our elders of the Long Cheng generation who brought us to America disappear one by one into the cavern of mortality. The passing of General Vang Pao on January 6, 2011 seems to have bleached that dream nearly completely from the hearts of the few remaining elders who are the cultural pillars of our society. As for the younger generation of iphone and Facebook, Hmong, they cannot even fathom the backbreaking agrarian life in the Lao highlands let alone see it as an appealing alternative. For them, America is “home” while Laos is a distant nightmare—a tourist curiosity, perhaps—from where their parents and grandparents had escaped.

So it falls upon our shoulders now to reconstitute Hmong society in America and around the globe, to try to document the dizzying changes occurring in front of our eyes. The duty to preserve Hmongness now falls upon Hmong and non-Hmong alike. Those of you who participate and share your research at this conferences aid in this colossal task. I thank you for your contributions. We have papers containing topics ranging from women and gender to youth participation in the internet and in the media. Transnationalism continues to be an intriguing subject while the issue of Hmong ethno-nationalism and dreams of reconstituting the lost kingdom stimulate the imagination. And, of course, we have papers on that beguiling issue of the Hmong in China that explore identity in the “true” homeland if, indeed, there is such a space.

The variety of topics, evidence of a continual interest in the Hmong, gives me hope that progress is occurring in the field of Hmong studies; that the Hmong have survived globally and will endure. To this end, let’s have a successful conference with meaningful exchanges.

Sincerely,

Mai Na M. Lee
Co-Chair, Hmong Across Borders Conference
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Dear Workshop Participants, Scholars, and Students,

Welcome to Minnesota!

As a Minnesota State Senator and a proud member of the Twin Cities Hmong community, it is my honor to welcome all of you to the second annual “Hmong Across Borders” conference hosted by the Consortium for Hmong Studies here in the Twin Cities.

I want to thank all of you for lending your time and expertise to the continuing development of Hmong studies. At this conference, you will meet and work with a diverse group of academics, community stakeholders, and students. You will learn a lot from each other, but you all have a shared goal of understanding the needs of the local Hmong communities. Take your experience and pair it with the knowledge you gain during this conference to help define the priorities and directions for the next generation of Hmong throughout the United States.

I relate the dedication of everyone in making our Diaspora the center of scholarly discussion. It’s my hope that this three day conference will inspire all of you and challenge everyone to continue your education.

My passion in life has been the love of arts, technology, and culture — especially the indigenous culture of the Hmong people. Both art and technology helped shape my career for two decades, but it was my submission into culture that helped me understand people and led me into the realms of politics. I’d like you to consider me your friend in the Minnesota State Senate.

If I may offer a few words of advice; bring to this conference your perspective, experience, and an open mind. I hope your willingness to dive into discussion and share your expertise will continue to support the scholarly study and advancement of the Hmong people.

Thanks again for agreeing to participate in this wonderful workshop.

Sincerely,

Phomvihang Hawj
MN State Senator
District 67

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES
 AREA RESTAURANTS

DINKYTOWN (University Ave. / 4th St. area)

SIT-DOWN RESTAURANTS

Annie’s Parlor
313 14th Ave. S.E.
612-377-0744

Bistro Pub & Grill
412 14th Ave. S.E.
612-331-1527

The Loring Pasta Bar
327 14th Ave. S.E.
612-378-4819
www.loringpasta.com

Shuang Cheng
1320 4th St. S.E.
612-378-0208

FAST FOOD / CHAIN RESTAURANTS

Bruegger’s Bagels
319 14th Ave. S.E.
612-623-9522
www.bruegger.com

Duffy’s Dinkytown Pizza
1308 5th St. S.E.
612-623-3833

McDonald’s
407 15th Ave. S.E.
612-331-6590
www.mcdonalds.com

Potbelly Sandwich Works
326 14th Ave. S.E.
612-331-0191
http://www.potbelly.com/

COFFEE HOUSES

Bordertown Coffee
315 16th Ave. S.E.
612-379-7277
www.bordertowncoffee.com

Expresso Royale Caffe
326 14th Ave. S.E.
612-378-8127
www.expressoroyale.com

Camdi Chinese-Vietnamese Restaurant
1325 4th St. S.E.
612-331-4194

Kafgo 421
421 14th Ave. S.E.
612-623-4900
www.kafgo421.com

Restaurant Alfa
528 University Ave. S.E.
612-379-4909
www.restaurantalfa.com

Steak Knife
1327 4th St. S.E.
612-378-4730
www.steakknife.us

Burrito Loco
418 13th Ave. S.E.
612-746-5626
burrito-locosfood.com

Erbert and Gerbert’s
1500 4th St. S.E.
612-331-1185
www.erbertandgerberts.com

Pizza Hut
1420 5th St. S.E.
612-623-0775
www.pizzahut.com

Taco John’s
1501 University Ave. S.E.
(On the Campus)
612-378-2403
www.tacojohn.com

China Express Inn
409 14th Ave. S.E.
612-379-6374

Jimmy John’s
404 14th Ave. S.E.
612-331-8000 / 612-379-1757
www.jimmyjohns.com

Subway
1412 5th St.
612-331-6786
www.subway.com

Dunn Bros. Coffee
1501 University Ave. S.E.
612-371-6146
(by Har Mar) www.dunnbros.com

Espresso 22
1501 University Ave. S.E.
612-378-7524

The Purple Onion
1301 University Ave.
(reopened at new location, Dec. 2006)

Caribou Coffee
1500 4th St. S.E.
612-378-7524

COMMITTEES:
Finance - Environment, Economic Development and Agriculture; Division Vice Chair
Environment and Energy
John Agriculture and Rural Development
Dear Attendees,

On behalf of the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, welcome to the 2013 "Hmong Across Borders" Conference. As Executive Director at the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans and a Hmong American, I am proud to help welcome all of you to this dynamic conference that promises to tie the past with the present and the future.

The Council, a state agency, was created by the Minnesota legislature in 1985 to fulfill three mandates: advise the Governor and legislature; advocate for our communities; and build bridges between and among the Asian Pacific and non-Asian Pacific communities. The Council represents the interests of the more than 42 Asian & Pacific Islander groups present in Minnesota – this community currently numbers over 200,000. Hmong Minnesotans – estimated at 66,000 according to the 2010 Census – make up the largest group represented by the Council.

This 3 day conference – bringing together many of today's most innovative scholars and inspiring Americans of Hmong descent – promises to be eye-opening and stimulating. Keeping in mind that we each have a role to play and a shared responsibility to bring about a healthier and stronger Hmong community, here and in the rest of the world, let us use this wonderful opportunity to learn from some of the most renowned scholars of our time.

The Hmong experience is unique. The Hmong have both maintained a cultural identity and reinvented itself due to the stresses and influences of being stateless and migratory. Therefore, Hmong identity is more fluid than a people with a geographic base. Defining "Hmongness" is a changing and moving target. Here in Minnesota, one need only look at our family and community gatherings and observe the commonality and differences between children, parents and grandparents to see this.

This conference presents an opportunity for all of us to explore and question or individual and our collective identities. As our community reinvents itself and creates a new sense of belonging, we are writing the next chapter in a story that our forebears in China and Laos could not have foreseen. They would not be surprised at the success of today’s Hmong Americans – they would have expected our success.

In Hmong solidarity, thank you to all of you for attending and furthering our shared story.

Sincerely,

Sia Her
Executive Director
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans

October 30, 2013
BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF KEYNOTE SPEAKERS/PERFORMERS:

Bruce Downing is professor emeritus of linguistics at the University of Minnesota. He received the Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of Texas. Before joining the U. of M. faculty as Chair of the Department of Linguistics in 1974, he taught at Robert College (Istanbul, Turkey) and the University of Southern California. In 1980 Dr. Downing became director of the Southeast Asian Refugee Studies Project (SARS), conducting research in Hmong refugee communities. In this role he helped organize the first Hmong Research Conference, held at the University of Minnesota in 1981 (published as The Hmong in the West, 1982), and the second Hmong Research Conference in 1983 (The Hmong in Transition, 1986). He served as associate director of the Refugee Mental Health Technical Assistance Center, 1985-89. From 1990 until his retirement, he was director of the University’s Program in Translation and Interpreting. Dr. Downing has numerous publications in the areas of linguistics, refugee resettlement, translation, and interpreting. He is a recipient of the University of Minnesota’s Outstanding Community Service Award and of the Distinguished Teaching Award of the College of Continuing Education.

Prasit Leepreecha (Tsav Tshaija Liis) is a Thai Hmong who earned his Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Washington, Seattle, in 2001. Presently, he is a lecturer in the Department of Social Science and Development in the Faculty of Social Science at Chiang Mai University. He is one of the editors of Challenging the Limits: Indigenous Peoples of the Mekong Region (2008) and Living in a Globalized World: Ethnic Minorities in the Greater Mekong Subregion (2008). His main interests include studying ethnic minorities in Northern Thailand and in mainland Southeast Asia. He examines identity, cultural change, tourism, and the impact of nationalism and globalization on these ethnic minorities. His current research project focuses on the transnational movement of Hmong Christians in Southeast Asia.

Gayle L. Morrison has worked with the Hmong community in education, refugee services, private enterprise, and as an oral historian for 35 years. Her first book, My Is Falling, uses oral history to document the air evacuation of the Hmong from Long Cheng, Laos, in May 1975. Her current book, Hug’S Exit? Jerry Daniels, the Hmong, and the CIA, uses oral history to explore Daniels’ mysterious death in Thailand and to document the events of his traditional Hmong funeral ceremony. Jerry Daniels was General Vang Pao’s CIA advisor in Laos. Ms. Morrison’s work with eye-witness oral history is a creative approach to documenting Hmong history and culture. She has a BA in Sociology and a MA in Psychology.

Yang Thai Vang, or Xib Fwvb “Vaj Ceeb,” is currently a Hmong Language & Cultural Instructor in the Department of Critical Studies, Race, and Ethnicity at St. Catherine University, St. Paul. He earned his bachelor degree from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in 2010. A child prodigy, he mastered the Hmong rituals, including the qayj bamboo instrument and the marriage and funeral ritual songs while living at Wat Thamkrabok in Saraburi, Thailand. Also, Mr. Vang has been an initiated shaman from the early age and has been featured in An Introduction to Shamanism by Thomas DuBois (Cambridge University Press 2009). Although only twenty-six years old, he has earned the respect of the Hmong’s top cultural experts such as Soob Ntxawg Thoj and others in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Vang first began studying the qayj instrument and other ritual rites under his father and his elder brother and has since also studied with Soob Ntxawg Thoj and other Hmong masters in the US as well as those in Thailand. In December 2012, Mr. Yang was conferred with the equivalent of a doctorate degree by Soob Ntxawg Thoj and by representatives of the Hmong 18-Clan Council and the Hmong Cultural Center in St. Paul. He is now considered one of the foremost Hmong cultural and ritual experts in the world.

SAVE THE DATES!

AAS 10th Anniversary Events, 2013-14
We are celebrating 10 years of scholarship, community, and progress with a series of events throughout the year. Visit our website for the most up-to-date information and subscribe to our Digest to stay connected with us.

October 20, 2013
Kang Vu Zombies vs Cannibals reception & discussion
The Southern Theater, Minneapolis

November 7, 2013
“From ‘Dixie’ to the Pacific: Asian American Studies Across Regions and Oceans”
Faculty New Book panel featuring AAS Faculty members Yuichiro Onishi and Kale Fajardo

January 2014
AAS Graduate Student Presentations Brown Bag

February 6, 2013
“War, Genocide, & Justice: Cambodian American Memory Work”
Cathy Schlund-Vials, Associate Professor, English & Asian American Studies, University of Connecticut, Storrs

March 10, 2013
Tak Fujitani
Dr. David Chu Professor and Director in Asia Pacific Studies
University of Toronto

April 29, 2013
“Aloha America: Hula Circuits Through the U.S. Empire”
Adria Imada, Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies, University of California, San Diego

May 9, 2013
AA Artist Showcase & Party!
Featuring David Mura, May Lee-Yang, Juliana Pegues, Ed Bok Lee, Light From Heaven Cambodian Orchestra, and Ananya Dance Theater*

*Program is subject to change
The Hmong qeej is an instrument that mainly used to communicate with the spirit world at a funeral. However, a long time ago qeej is only used for weddings, the Hmong New Year’s celebration, entertainment purposes, and special occasions.” — Gayle Morrison, “The Hmong Qeej: Speaking to the Spirit World,” Hmong Studies Journal v2n2 Spring 1998.

ZAJ QEEJ “HMOOB TUS NPE NTAUB NPE NTAWV” Song about the Loss of the Hmong’s Writing System—Told orally by Yang Thai (Cheng) Vang and written by Mai Na M. Lee

Yang Thai (Cheng) Vang’s qeej song tells the story of the loss of the Hmong Kingdom and their writing system. It is believed that a long time ago when the Hmong were still in China, they had a Kingdom and a writing system comparable to the great civilizations of the world. To defeat the Hmong, the Chinese Emperor sealed a marriage alliance with the Hmong King by sending a Chinese Princess to be married to the Hmong Prince. Unbeknownst to the Hmong, she came with ill intentions as a spy to uncover all the knowledge of Hmong civilization, including the weaknesses of Hmong society. She reported every discovery to her father, the Chinese Emperor. Once the Emperor knew the weaknesses of Hmong society, he sent his son, Xwm Kav (Fourth Guardian), to destroy the Hmong Kingdom. Writing was among the elements that made Hmong society strong, so it became a main target of destruction. Every book was decimated and the knowledge of writing prohibited. The Hmong admire Xwm Kav’s martial skills so much that they still hope to harness it by worshiping him as the Xwm Kab in their homes today.

Following the destruction of the Hmong Kingdom, a Hmong scholar was able to save just one book that contained the most important knowledge of Hmong civilization. He tucked it into his belt and carried it everywhere, including to the fields to grow crops. When he napped the cow chewed off a chunk of the book. When he put the book to the door, a pig ate off another chunk. Finally, he put what was left of the book in a wooden trunk in the bedroom. When he went to look at it later, mice had chewed it to pieces. Saddened by these events, the scholar gathered what he could of the torn pieces of the book and told his wife to sew the letters into her padau or embroideries, hence, preserving some letters in the needlework—particularly in the embroideries of Hmong funeral clothes. Since then the literate are allowed to pass through the Gate of Ntxaw Nyog (God of the Underworld) to be reborn into the next life, when a Hmong dies she or he has to be dressed in these special funeral clothes that contain some of the Hmong alphabet. Furthermore, every deceased Hmong must call the pig and the cow to testify in front of Ntxaw Nyog that they did, indeed, eat the Hmong’s book and their writing system, thus depriving them of literacy in the present era. For this reason, at least one cow and one pig must be sacrificed to accompany every deceased Hmong individual to the Gate of Ntxaw Nyog.

This qeej song was passed down from a master to eighty-year-old Ntsum Txiab Yaj who lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Ntsum Txiab passed the song on to Yang Thai Vang in 2010. Ntsum Txiab and Yang Thai are probably the only two Hmong men in the present era who know and can still play this song.

“Miss ate it all, mice ate it all, what is the Hmong grandpa afraid off? The Hmong grandpa is afraid of the Chinese officials who learned his writing system… One day the Hmong grandpa went to farming with a cow, he put the book around his waist and went to take a nap, the cow took a bite of a portion of the book. The Hmong grandpa came home he left the book by the side of the door, the pig plowed dirt into it, so there’s go another portion of the book…” — Zaj Qeej verses are translated by Yang Thai Vang.

THE QEEJ (BAMBOO INSTRUMENT) “The Hmong qeej generally is described by musicologists as a free-reed multiple pipe musical instrument. It is a solo instrument, played without the accompaniment either of other musical instruments or singing, although it is intermittently accompanied by drums a Hmong funeral. For the Hmong, the indisputable difference between their instrument and those of other ethnic groups is that the Hmong qeej ‘speaks’. Therefore, the Hmong qeej is not an instrument designed to produce music; it is a bamboo voice that transmits a highly stylized and ritualistic language. Today, qeej is an instrument that intones a highly stylized and ritualistic language. Thus ‘music’ and ‘speech’ are inseparable. Today, qeej is an instrument that intones a highly stylized and ritualistic language. Thus ‘music’ and ‘speech’ are inseparable. Today, qeej is an instrument that intones a highly stylized and ritualistic language. Thus ‘music’ and ‘speech’ are inseparable. Today, qeej is an instrument that intones a highly stylized and ritualistic language. Thus ‘music’ and ‘speech’ are inseparable. Today, qeej is an instrument that intones a highly stylized and ritualistic language. Thus ‘music’ and ‘speech’ are inseparable.

A translation of a portion of the Hmong qeej song:

# ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Asian American Studies Program, University of Minnesota**

Asian American Studies faculty, staff, and graduate and undergraduate students are committed to exploring the histories, cultures, communities, experiences, and contemporary issues of Asian Americans.

**Our mission** is to foster interdisciplinary research and creative activity in Asian American Studies; excellence in undergraduate and graduate teaching; and collaborative community outreach.

We offer an **undergraduate minor** in Asian American Studies as well as undergraduate and graduate courses.

The Asian American Studies minor focuses on the history, politics, and culture of Americans of Asian descent. Courses explore the diversity of Asian American communities and the history and present conditions of racial formation in the United States and other parts of the Americas. The minor draws from courses in a number of disciplines and academic approaches and encourages social awareness, critical thinking, the development of new perspectives, and artistic appreciation. Courses included in the minor allow students to develop their knowledge of Asian American issues in many different contexts. Some courses emphasize an in-depth study of Asian American history, literature and culture, social issues, politics and psychology. Others include significant attention to Asian American Studies topics in the course of broader discussions.

**Our faculty** include scholars and teachers from across the University of Minnesota: American studies; curriculum and instruction; English; gender, women, and sexuality studies; history; psychology; and sociology. They’ve won national awards for their research and University of Minnesota teaching awards for their excellence in both undergraduate and graduate teaching. Prof. Erika Lee has been awarded the 2011 Arthur "Red" Motley Exemplary Teaching Award and the Sara Evans Faculty Woman Scholar/Leader Award in Humanities, Arts and Sciences for 2012 at the University of Minnesota. Prof. Josephine Lee has successfully completed her term as President of the Association for Asian American Studies. Prof. Richard Lee has begun his term as the President of the Asian American Psychological Association. Prof. Melissa Kwon has been awarded a special grant for her project with the Minnesota Young Women’s Collaborative by the Women’s Center at the University of Minnesota in 2012 at the University of Minnesota.

**Our students** have gone on to careers in the arts, law, business, health care, social work, and education.

Lisa Sun-Hec Park, Director
778 Social Sciences Building, West Bank 612-626-9812 lspark@umn.edu

Saymoulda D. Vongsay, Community Outreach Coordinator
782 Social Science Building 612-625-4813 vong0018@umn.edu

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The qeej was generally is described by musicologists as a free-reed multiple pipe musical instrument. It is a solo instrument, played without the accompaniment either of other musical instruments or singing, although it is intermittently accompanied by drums a Hmong funeral. For the Hmong, the indisputable difference between their instrument and those of other ethnic groups is that the Hmong qeej ‘speaks’. Therefore, the Hmong qeej is not an instrument designed to produce music; it is a bamboo voice that transmits a highly stylized and ritualistic language. Today, qeej is an instrument that intones a highly stylized and ritualistic language. Thus ‘music’ and ‘speech’ are inseparable.
THE IMMIGRATION HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AND ARCHIVES
"The Immigration History Research Center and Archives (IHRC&A) share a mission to promote interdisciplinary research on migration, race, and ethnicity in the U.S. and the world; develop archives documenting immigrant and refugee experiences, especially in the U.S.; and support public programming and outreach efforts that connect U.S. immigration history research to contemporary issues and communities. Since the early 1960s, the IHRC&A have gathered vast holdings of archival and published sources (personal papers, along with the organizational records of immigrants and refugees and the agencies created to serve them, oral histories, newspapers, serials and books). The collections are particularly rich on the labor migrants who came to the U.S. between 1880 and the 1930s, on the displaced persons who arrived in the U.S. after World War II, and on the refugees resettled in the United States after 1975. The IHRC&A aim to document and study a broad range of immigrant and refugee experiences, and to make the preserved documentation accessible to researchers.

Several collections hold valuable documentation for refugees from Southeast Asia, particularly the Records of the Refugee Studies Center (established in 1980 at the University of Minnesota), the Records of the International Institute of Minnesota, and also the Records of the United States Committee for Refugees, among others. For more information about these and additional collections, please visit the website at: ihrc.umn.edu

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**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2013**

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<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Cowles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Welcome by Provost Karen Hanson, Office of the Vice President and Provost, University of Minnesota, Qëxj Performance of the Loss of the Hmong Kingdom and their Writing System by Yang Thai Vang, St. Catherine University, St. Paul</td>
<td>Cowles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome and Opening Remarks by:
- Mai Na M. Lee, History, University of Minnesota
- Ian Baird, Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Yang Dao, University of Minnesota, Emeritus

10:30 AM | Keynote Address: Prasit Leepreecha, Ethnic Studies and Development, Chiang Mai University, Thailand "Hmong Across Borders and Borders Across Hmong: Socio-Political and Intellectual Influences Upon Hmong People" | Cowles   |

11:30 AM | Lunch on your own                                                                                                                               | Off-site |

3:30 PM | **Session 4 Panel A – Navigating the Tenuous Space Between Past and Future:** Hmong Perspectives on Discontinuity from Northern Thailand | Forum    |

**Panelists:**
- April Reber, Anthropology, Brigham Young University – This is Like Dying While Still Being Alive: How the Hmong Engage in Street-Level Politics
- Belinda Ramirez Spencer, Anthropology, Brigham Young University – Cultural Revision Through Religion: A Messianic Hmong Approach to Northern Thailand
- Krista Rau, Brigham Young University – Where Do the Spirits Reside?: Hmong Sacred Places Now and Then
- Jolya Segwick, Brigham Young University – A Shift in Priorities: The Motivations Behind Hmong Urban Migration in Northern Thailand

**Moderator:** Jacob R. Hickman, Anthropology, Brigham Young University

3:30 PM | **Session 4 Panel B – First Contact: Hmong Confront the West and Westerners** | Cowles |

**Panelists:**
- Jason Yu-Xiao Long, Guizhou Institute for Advanced Study in Anthropology and Ethnology – Ways of Tracing Roots Back to China: A Critique of Current Western Writings on Ancient Hmong History
- Paul Hillmer, History, Concordia University – U.S. Foreign Policy Toward the Hmong in 1975
- Violet Thor, University of Wisconsin-Madison – Father Yves Bertrais O.M.I. The Good Shepard and Anthropologist
- Larry Ashmun, Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison – The Father Yves Bertrais Collection

**Moderator:** Ian Baird, Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison

5:15 PM | Closing Keynote and Final Remarks: Bruce Downing, Linguistics, Institute of Linguistics, University of Minnesota “Hmong Research—Then and Now” | Cowles |

6:15 PM | Optional Happy Hour/Dinner on your own Republic at Seven Corners, an optional happy hour/dinner on your own, at a local bar and restaurant | Republic at Seven Corners | 221 Cedar Avenue South Minneapolis |
10:30 AM  
Session 2 Panel B – What Makes the Miao the Miao?

Panelists:
- Yonglin Jiang, East Asian Studies, Bryn Mawr College
- Jinting Wu, Educational Sciences, University of Luxembourg
- Zujie Yuan, Foreign Languages and Cultures, Sichuan University

Moderator: Donald Sutton, History, Carnegie Mellon University

12:00 PM  
Lunch, catered by Karta Thai Restaurant

1:00 PM  
Keynote Address: Gayle Morrison, Author, Historian
"Oral History: Opening the Kitchen Door"

2:10 PM  
Session 3 Panel A – Refugee Archive: Debt and Hmong History

Panelists:
- Ma Vang, Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages, University of California-Riverside – Anthology as a Refugee Archive: Re-Chronicling Hmong Histories in How Do I Begin?
- Aline Lo, English, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee – Forever Indebted: The Obligation to Retell Refugee Flight in Yang’s The ‘Latehomecomer’
- Chong Moua, Asian American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison – Hmong Refugee Cosmopolitanism: (Re)Imagining Southeast Asia Through a Stateless Perspective

Moderator: Mariam Beevi Lam, Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages, University of California-Riverside

2:10 PM  
Session 3 Panel B – Architectural Space, Design, and Hmong Identity

Panelists:
- Long Chang, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee – Koob Hmoov: Bridging the Cultural Divide Through the Architecture of Transitional Housing
- Tasoulla Hadiyanni, Design, Housing and Apparel, University of Minnesota – Toward Culturally Sensitive Housing: The Hmong Experience in Minnesota

Moderator: Mai See Thao, Anthropology, University of Minnesota

3:20 PM  
Break

12:45 PM  
Special Tour of the Immigration History Research Center’s Southeast Asian/Hmong Collection

12:45 PM  
Session 1: Special Issue of the Hmong Studies Journal: Hmong Americans in the 2010 Census
“Hmong Population and Demographic Trends in the 2010 Census and 2010 American Community Survey”

Panelist: Mark Pfeifer, Institute of Technology, State University of New York

2:15 PM  
Session 2 Panel A – Hmong Gender Productions in a Time of Change

Panelists:
- Jigna Desai, Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies, University of Minnesota – Thinking Bollywood, Refugee Identity, and Hmong Diasporic Longings
- Kari Smalkoski, Family Social Science, Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota – Performing Masculinities: The Impact of Cultural Practices, Violence, and (de)segregation on Hmong Male Youth

Moderator: Justin Schell, Minnesota Libraries-Arts and Humanities, University of Minnesota
2:15 PM  Session 2 Panel B – The Hmong China History Project  Cowles

Panelists:
- Crystal Vang, Geography and Anthropology, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire – The Modernization of Paj Ntaub
- Choua Xiong, Liberal Studies, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire – Analysis of a Hmong Mythical Figure
- See Yang, Geography and Anthropology, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire – Education and Gender Roles in the Daily Life of the Hmong of China

Moderator: Robert Entenmann, History, St. Olaf College

3:40 PM  Break

4:00 PM  Session 3 Panel A – Hmong in Thailand: Dreams and Expressions of Ethno-Nationalism  Cowles

Panelists:
- David Chambers, Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison – The Creation and Contestation of Wat Tham Krabok Space: Monk and Hmong Spatiality and Territoriality
- Ian Baird, Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison – Presenting a Sensitive History: Different Representations of Hmong Involvement in the Communist Party of Thailand
- Jacob R. Hickman, Anthropology, Brigham Young University – The Art of Being Governed: Managing the Soul of General Vang Pao through the Rituals of Aspirational Statecraft

Moderator: Catherine Solheim, Family Social Science, Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota

4:00 PM  Session 3 Panel B – The Media, the Internet, and Globalization and Shifting Hmong Values  Forum

Panelists:
- Tian Shu, Guilin, Jinzhong Mountain Tourism Academy – Internet, Ethnic Movement, and Hmong Diaspora
- Lori Kido Lopez, Media and Cultural Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison – Hmong Radio and Mobile Phone Connections
- Richard Gettys, Anthropology, Brigham Young University – Making a Profit at What Cost? Sociality and the New Economic Realities Facing Hmong Entrepreneurs in Thailand
- Justin Schell, University Libraries-Arts and Humanities, University of Minnesota – Justin Schell, University Libraries-Arts and Humanities, University of Minnesota

Moderator: Mitchell P. Ogden, English and Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Stout

6:00 PM  Banquet for those that have registered  Campus Club, Coffman Memorial Union, East Bank

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2013

TIME  EVENT  LOCATION
9:00 AM  Session 1 Panel A – Hmong Health and Identity  Forum

Panelists:
- Pa Der Vang, School of Social Work, St. Catherine University – Generational Differences among Hmong Americans
- Mai See Thao, Anthropology, University of Minnesota – We are People Born Tim Uh (afar): Transcending Diabetes

Moderator: Lisa Sun-Hee Park, Sociology and Asian American Studies Program, University of Minnesota

9:00 AM  Session 1 Panel B – Women and Gender Roundtable  Cowles

Panelists:
- Chia Vang, History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Ma Vang, Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages, University of California-Riverside
- Aline Lo, English, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Nou Yang, Hnub Tshiab, Hmong Women Achieving Together (HWAT)
- Yer Chang, Former Legislative Aid to Minnesota State Senator Mee Moua

Moderator: Mitchell P. Ogden, English and Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-

10:20 AM  Break

10:30 AM  Session 2 Panel A – Understanding the Hmong in their Own Contexts  Forum

Panelists:
- Kathleen Cullane-Pera, Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota – Either You are Afraid of Not Having a Doctor in the Mountain or You are Afraid of Having a Doctor in the Hospital
- Jennifer Kue, College of Nursing, The Ohio State University – Notes From the Field: Insider Perspective on Conducting Community-Engaged Research with the Hmong
- Kevin Thao, Family Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison – The Prevalence of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus in a Wisconsin Hmong Patient Population

Moderator: Zha Blong Xiong, Family Social Science, Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota