

On a beautiful sunny Friday, at the University of Wisconsin Madison, "Hmong Around the World", a conference organized by the Hmong Studies Consortium, took its course. It was a two day event that took place April 10th and 11th. Organized by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Hmong Around the World" connected scholars, professionals, researchers, and students from all over the world to come together and share the research they've done or will continue to do about the Hmong. Research topics range from Hmong language studies to Hmong cash crop farming studies. As stated by Ian Baird, "The purpose of the conference was to promote the exchange of knowledge related to Hmong people, so as to advance the field of Hmong Studies, broadly defined, including Hmong American Studies, Hmong in Asia, and transnational Hmong interactions."

A "call for proposals" was placed and numerous submissions were received. Within the "call for proposals" full panels, round-table discussions and individual presentations were included. A schedule was organized by a committee formed with the task to connect the audience with its presenters. Mai Na Lee from the University of Minnesota, gave a speech in which she referenced her research titled "Queens and Women Warriors in Hmong Messianic Rebellions" regarding the vital roles of Hmong women during those times.

Ntxhais Yaj, a delegate student from Chiang Mai University in Thailand was a presenter at the conference. She stated, "The minorities in Thailand; only a few of them advance into higher education. Many live in poverty and very few receive Thai government resources or scholarships." Yang is one of the very few Hmong students in Thailand studying towards a higher education degree.

From this conference, one might conclude that the Hmong way of life is unique and diverse that it has interested, at different levels, so many professionals in all fields to do more in depth studies and research about the Hmong; whether in the United States or in Laos. One of the hopes of having this event of connecting scholars, professionals, and researchers is that "the conference would help broaden the knowledge of people with interest in Hmong Studies, especially for Hmong people themselves, but also more broadly," as stated by Baird. *By Xee Yang of Hmong Globe, hmongglobe@gmail.com*

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