



Hnub Tshiab

Hmong Women Achieving Together

P.O. Box 14127 • St. Paul, MN • 55114
info@hmongwomenachieve.org

Hmong Women Leadership Institute 2010 Fellows

Linda Hawj

Linda Hawj is an Artist Activist. She is an emerging, multi-disciplined Artist in the forms of writing, spoken word, emceeing and filmmaking. As an Activist, she advocates for the Hmong LGBTQI community, feminism, equality, education, exploring and understanding identities of the self as well as self-empowerment. Using her Art forms as social changing tools, she creatively expresses and actively speaks out about the struggles and achievements she experiences as a Hmong Queer Womyn in the Hmong American life. She works at Hmong American Partnership as the Education and Training Department's Assistant while attending Metropolitan State University, majoring in Human Service Work with a minor in Gender studies. She is a member of RECLAIMS board, bringing in a unique and diverse lens of outreach and focus to bridge Hmong Queer Youth and mental health awareness. She is also a recipient of PFund's Racial Equity Initiative Scholarship and on the Shades of Yellow's Leadership Team.

Jewelly Lee

Jewelly Lee is currently a fourth year student at St. Catherine University. In May 2010, she will graduate with her Bachelors of Arts degree in Women's Studies and Sociology and a minor in Communications. She currently works for Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment (WISE) as an Assistant Coordinator for three of their youth programs: Mentoring Program, Project Achieve and Girls Getting Ahead in Leadership.

Mai Neng Moua

Mai Neng Moua is an associate attorney at Davis & Goldfarb in downtown Minneapolis. She works primarily on corporate and family immigration matters including employment-based visas, family-based visas, permanent residence through labor certification applications, adjustment of status, naturalization, and asylum cases. Mai Neng received her Juris Doctor from William Mitchell College of Law in May 2007, and her Bachelor of Arts degree in History, Political Science, and East Asian Studies from the University of St. Thomas in May 2004.

Sia Moua

Sia Moua is currently an AmeriCorps Project Development Coordinator with HandsOn Twin Cities. She is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, and served in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania as a Girls' Education and Empowerment volunteer from 2008-2009. Sia graduated from Denison University (Granville, Ohio) in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, Communication, and Political Science minor. In college, she was a student leader on and off campus – holding leadership positions in several student organizations. She was particularly active in the Asian Pacific American student movement through her leadership in the Midwest Asian American Students Union (MAASU). She is committed to service, human rights, social justice and strengthening the Asian Pacific American community.



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Ann Vang

Ann is the middle child of 7 children. As a child she had many questions about the world. She would lie outside and wonder why the sky was blue, why gun shots in my neighborhood would go off in the middle of the night and why she had to learn how to cook so when she gets married she would be a good nyab. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. With a sociology background, many of her childhood questions are answered, and she now helps with data disaggregation and fights to bring health and racial equity to communities of color.

Gaolang Vang

GaoLang Vang is currently attending Saint Catherine's University, studying in Sociology and Women Studies. She works in the Abigail Q. McCarthy Center for Women at Saint Catherine's University as a research assistant and as a catalyst for change. GaoLang is a youth advocate with extensive experience in the youth development field. She has volunteered with the Youth Leadership Initiative Program at the Wilder Foundation for over 6 years, helping youth develop strong, effective leadership skill to work in diverse community settings. GaoLang has discovered her strengths, her voice, and her ability to lead youth of all cultures. She has overcome barriers within her culture that make it difficult for women to take on community leadership roles. She also worked as a Community Youth Worker at Camp Fire USA, a non-profit organization that help young people become who they are and provide opportunities for them to grow as leaders.

Shelly Xiong

Shelly Xiong is a Lead Interpreter at HealthPartners Midway Clinic and Center for International Health. As Lead Interpreter she is responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations for the ten-person team that provides medical interpreting at the clinic. In her role, she is responsible for scheduling, staffing, billing, general office management, and communicating with clinic staff regarding policies, protocol and best practice. She interprets for Hmong patients seeking care at the clinic and serves on the clinic's Employee Council Team, which is focused on creating a respectful and engaging work environment for all employees. She is married and has three children.

True Xiong

True is currently a graduate student in the Leadership in Student Affairs Program at the University of St. Thomas and a Graduate Intern in the TRIO Office and the Financial Aid Office at Augsburg College. She enjoys helping students discover themselves and assist them in developing skills to navigate college. Prior to graduate school, True worked as an Admission Counselor at Gustavus Adolphus College by providing guidance to high school students on their college search and application process. She also advised student leaders from the Asian Cultures Club and supervised six Collegiate Fellows in the residential hall. Since then, she relocated back to the Twin Cities to start graduate school and be closer to friends and family. True has a Bachelor of Arts in Management from Gustavus.



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May Lee-Yang

May Lee-Yang is a playwright, poet, prose writer, and performance artist. Her theater-based works have been produced through Mu Performing Arts, the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent, Illusion Theater, and Intermedia Arts. Her writing has been published in publications including *Bamboo Among the Oaks: Contemporary Writing by Hmong Americans*, *Paj Ntaub Voice*, *To Sing Along the Way: MN Women Poets From Pre-Territorial Days to the Present*, and others. She has won awards and fellowships from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Playwright Center, the National Performance Network, and the Midwestern Voices and Visions Residency. In the other part of her life, she worked for ten years in the non-profit sphere doing work around leadership and healthy youth development. She is a co-founder of the organization, V.I.S.I.O.N. and currently volunteers as a Girl Scout troop leader..

PaChia Yang

PaChia Yang graduated from Carleton College with a degree in Sociology/Anthropology and Women & Gender Studies. She is passionate about the education of young women of color and identity development. She is also a strong advocate of human rights and has helped in various projects within the community. Currently, her will to act on social justice issues has pushed her to try and pursue a law degree in International and Human Rights Law.