

3:30-5:30 P.M.

TAKE ACTION

- **FOOD DRIVE** – Conference attendees have the opportunity to donate non-perishable food items to the St. Peter Soup Kitchen. All the items will then be packaged for delivery by conference attendees in the Dive.
- **CARE PACKAGES** – This portion of the Action Piece provides an opportunity for conference attendees to individually assemble care packages filled with basic necessities for recently arrived immigrants. The packaging will take place in the Dive.
- **FORMAL WEAR DRIVE** – Take this opportunity to donate gently used formal wear (prom dresses, ties, etc.) for St. Peter and Mankato teens in need. Conference attendees can drop clothing items off in the Dive.
- **INTERACTIVE WALK THROUGH** – Participants will have the opportunity to experience the struggles of becoming an American citizen during this interactive walkthrough of the citizenship process. They will follow the personal journeys of various immigrants who currently live in the United States, and will have the chance to work through the same challenges immigrants face on their journey to America, in Alumni Hall.
- **SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS AND LETTER WRITING** – The Walk Through will also include stations to:
 - Donate money to a scholarship fund for a graduating high school senior in St. Peter.
 - Write letters to legislative officials expressing opinions about immigration and asking for action, in Alumni Hall.
- **MOSAIC** – Participants are encouraged to draw, write, or express their feelings about immigration on a blank canvas in the hallway outside of the Community Service Center in the Campus Center.

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Thank you for attending
and we look forward to your
continued participation and
support in years to come!

The 15th Annual Building Bridges Conference is sponsored by the Building Bridges Committee, Gustavus Student Senate, Campus Activities Board, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

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A STUDENT-LED DIVERSITY CONFERENCE



PASSPO

THE CONFERENCE

"Building Bridges" is a student-initiated, student-led diversity conference dedicated to addressing today's pressing global and social issues. We work to increase awareness and action through inspirational speakers supplemented by interactive workshops and action steps. This year's conference, "Immigration: Surviving the Land of Opportunity," will focus on the two sides of immigration—the struggles immigrants face and the strength required to survive these struggles every day. After beginning to learn about immigration the committee wondered, "What can we do to support immigrants and spread awareness about this issue?" We will continue working to answer this question in this year's conference. We promise a thought-provoking, hands-on learning experience that will provide many ways in which you too can answer the question for yourself. On behalf of the Building Bridges Committee, we cordially welcome you to the 15th annual Building Bridges Conference.

Mayanthi Jayawardena and Rebekah Schulz
Building Bridges Co-Chairs 2010

- To promote mutual respect and understanding about diversity issues throughout college campuses and larger communities.
- To lay a foundation for opening up dialogue throughout the world community, bringing together individuals from various settings, situations, and interests to discuss pressing matters involving global diversity.
- To dispel the assumption that one person's actions cannot make a difference by providing the means for social change.

SCHEDULE

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 10:00 a.m. Welcoming Address, "I Am, We Are" Social Justice Theatre Performance and Keynote Speakers
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 p.m. Workshop Session 1
- 2:30 p.m. Workshop Session 2
- 3:30 p.m. Workshop Session 3
- 3:30 p.m. Action Piece | Alumni Hall

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IMMIGRATION
SURVIVING
THE LAND
OF OPPORTUNITY

10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

I AM WE ARE | CHRIST CHAPEL CONFERENCE OPENING

I Am We Are is a student-led organization striving to create a more just campus community by organizing and presenting theatrical performances and workshops that deal with issues of social justice. Based in the works of **Augusto Boal**, and begun by **Vanita Vector** in 1995, the group has a number of performances both on- and off-campus throughout the year. Campus performances generally include E-Pluribus Gustavus in the fall and the Building Bridges Conference in the spring.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



KAO KALIA YANG is a Hmong-American writer, born in Ban Vinai refugee camp in Thailand. Yang and her family immigrated to the United States when she was seven and settled in St. Paul. Yang graduated from Carleton College, receiving a bachelor's degree in American studies, women's and gender studies, and cross-cultural studies. Yang also holds a master of fine arts degree in creative non-fiction writing from Columbia University. She now resides in Andover, Minn., with a family of her own and writes and travels around the country.

Kao Kalia Yang is the author of *The Latecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, a story about the journey taken by her family, and guided by the spirits and beliefs of her grandmother. She was driven to tell her family's story after her grandmother's death. Her memoir is a tribute to the remarkable woman whose spirit held them all together.

"Yang tells her family's story with grace; she narrates their struggles, beautifully weaving in Hmong folklore and culture. By the end of this moving, unforgettable book . . . readers will delight at how intimately they have become part of this formerly strange culture." —Publishers Weekly (Starred review)



DR. PAUL HILLMER is a professor of history at Concordia University, St. Paul. In 2001, he and some of his students began the Hmong Oral History Project in order "to connect younger generations of Hmong, and the broader communities in which many Hmong live, with resources describing Hmong culture in Laos, the Secret War in Southeast Asia, and stories of the Hmong immigrant experience." He was awarded a "Save Our History" grant by the History Channel in July 2006, and used it to create a six-part documentary ("From Strangers to Neighbors") examining the Hmong people and their resettlement in the Twin Cities. Dr. Hillmer has just completed a book, *A People's History of the Hmong*, based on the 200-plus interviews he and his students collected.

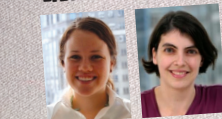
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1:30 - 4:30 P.M.

KEYNOTE Q&A | ST. PETER ROOM | SESSION 2 ONLY
Keynote speakers **KAO KALIA YANG** and **DR. PAUL HILLMER** will answer audience members' lecture questions. This is a great opportunity to interact with the speakers and hear their opinions on immigration.

THROUGH THE EYES OF AN IMMIGRANT | COURTYARD CAFE | SESSIONS 1, 2, & 3
These individuals—Gustavus students, faculty, and staff—will share their personal experiences with immigration and what it is like to live in Minnesota. They represent a variety of backgrounds—coming from countries like Somalia, Mexico, Japan, Colombia, Sweden, Ethiopia, and El Salvador. Panel members will also answer audience members' questions about their experiences.

IMMIGRATION IN MINNESOTA AND THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE | BOARD ROOM | SESSIONS 1 & 3
ANNA DONNELLY & MADELINE LOHMAN are education program assistants for the Advocates for Human Rights, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights in the United States and around the world. In this interactive workshop, participants will receive an overview of U.S. immigration law and its impact on the human rights of migrants. The presentation will focus on the refugee experience in particular, giving participants new insight into the unique place of Minnesota in our immigration system.



NO SECOND CHANCE | THREE CROWNS ROOM | SESSION 1 & 2
MARISSA HILL-DONGRE is the education coordinator at the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. She worked at Centro Legal, a St. Paul non-profit organization, first as a Minnesota Justice Foundation clerk and later as an attorney, focusing on family-based petitions, citizenship, and aid for battered immigrant women and immigrant victims of crime. This presentation will focus on the naturalization process and discuss deportation and the impact criminal activity can have on a person's immigration status.



THE SOMALI DIASPORA: A JOURNEY AWAY | ST. PETER ROOM | SESSIONS 1 & 3
ABDI ROBLE & DOUG RUTLEDGE are a social justice documentary photographer and a writer, and the founders of the Somali Documentary Project, which aims to document the lives of the diaspora and share with host countries the lives of the Somali people when they leave their homeland. Roble and Rutledge will examine the journey of Somali refugees from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya to various parts of the United States. They will also discuss the Somali communities in Ohio and Minnesota.

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: PHOTO ESSAY FROM OUR BORDER | LINNEN LOUNGE | SESSIONS 1 & 2
DON BARTLETTI has over 30 years of experience as a photojournalist, and has been a staff photographer for the Los Angeles Times since 1992. He has covered stories in California, Mexico, Central America, South America, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In 2003, he won a Pulitzer Prize for his photo series, "Enrique's Journey," which documents the travels of immigrants who ride the tops of trains from Honduras to the United States. During his talk, Bartletti will share about his experiences at the border and thoughts on immigration.



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