



Ethnic Diversity Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES



Lifetime Teaching and Service Award *Professor Hanh Huy Phan*

1974-2018

44 years of service in the
Department of Ethnic Studies at
Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minnesota

*A Positive attitude, dedication and hard work are only a few
of the characteristics that you have shared with us every day.
Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your service!*

*With the deep abiding respect
and everlasting esteem of your
colleagues, students, and friends*

Professor Phan holding the Lifetime of Teaching and Service Award Plaque. She is surrounded by friends, students and faculty



Minnesota State University, Mankato

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Inside this issue:

Summary of Lifetime Teaching and Service. 2

Good News 2017-18 : Lecture on Immigration Crisis 3

Political tribes: Group instinct and the fate of nations, book overview/review by Dr. Darboe, Chair. 5

Please Keep Us Posted 7

Mission Statement

"The Department of Ethnic Studies, an interdisciplinary program, is academically committed to promoting multicultural and ethnic knowledge, skills and values both within and outside the United States and to preparing our students for effective participation in the culturally diverse global community."

Summary of Lifetime of Teaching and Service

I take this opportunity to chronicle the lifetime of teaching and service of Professor Hanh-Huy Phan in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Minnesota State University-Mankato and Minnesota communities. Professor Phan is passionate about teaching and improving the quality of student academic performance. She has taught American Racial Minorities course, one of the university's largest general education courses every semester and also specialty courses on Asian Americans, Inter-racial Dating, Cultural Pluralism, Women of Color, etc. As a professor, she is known for her ability to create a supportive classroom environment while still providing a rigorous academic course. Her dedication to teaching, research and service is impressive at Minnesota State University; for example, her teaching evaluations are consistently high for such a difficult subject as race/ethnicity; and her students respect and appreciate her dedication to them and the subject matter.

As a colleague, mentor, and advisor to so many students, Professor Phan always encourages us to strive for excellence. Additionally, she is always available to address our concerns, questions and inevitable problems. Many students have completed research projects under Professor Phan's direction and presented

them at local and national conferences. Every semester, she sponsors students' attendances and presentations at professional conferences, which allows students to interact with other students and professionals

Professor Phan is founder of the Ethnic Studies Program and was chairperson of the Department of Ethnic Studies. Also, she is founder of the Asian American Association, the Vietnamese American Association, the Hmong Student Association, the Cambodian Student Association and the Lao Student Association. She is equally active in bringing diversity to the Mankato community, as President of the Mankato Vietnamese American Association, as a former member of the MRCI Auxiliary Board and a volunteer at the Salvation Army. Through these accomplishments, Professor Phan certainly lives up to the professional creed by encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in teaching and service on and off-campus. She has been a guiding light, not only to colleagues, to students of diverse cultural backgrounds and graduate teaching assistants but also to people in the Minnesota community.

In addition, Professor Phan was also named the 2008 Pathfinder Award winner, which recognized her as human rights pioneer. The Minnesota State University-

Mankato student senate presented her with the "Teacher of the Year" honor in 2009. As Golden Key President, she single handedly rescued the Golden Key International Honor Society at Minnesota State University-Mankato and extended membership to graduate students, thus making the organization more multicultural. In 2010, Dr. Wayne Allen and I dedicated to Professor Phan a book entitled: An Introduction to Ethnic Studies: A New Approach, for being a tireless teacher, leader, champion, colleague, mother, sister, and friend.

I believe that, for all the aforementioned accomplishments, Professor Phan deserves the lifetime of teaching and service award. Best wishes!

Friends, students and faculty

GOOD NEWS

Department of Ethnic Studies 2017-2018

Student Success

During the past five years, great progress has been made in student academic achievement through formal classroom instruction, field trips, and internships. Students demonstrate also their competency and analytical skills through scholarly conference presentations of papers, and interpretation of professional research projects. In addition, the Newsletter that highlights the accomplishments is annually published by the Department.

- Five Ethnic Studies students attended a two-day workshop/conference on Overcoming Racism in Greater Minnesota at Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, Minnesota, fall semester 2017
- Each student was awarded a Certificate of Participation, fall semester 2017
- Ms. Ebru Ilhan's certificate is attached
- Mr. Sanjaya Balami, undergraduate student, is the President of Ethnic Studies Student Organization (EESO), Nepali Student Community, elected as off-campus Senator of the student Government, MSU
- Ms. Sarena Nauman, undergraduate student, successfully completed ETHN 497: Internship at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), spring semester 2018
- Ms. Crystal Yang, graduate student, successfully completed ETHN 697: Internship at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Mankato
- Ms. Baruah Dolly successfully completed Ethnic Studies 697: Internship at the United Nations, New York, fall semester 2017
- Ms. Faith Neumann is a second year law student at Michelle Hamline Law School, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 2018
- Ethnic Studies Student Organization (ESSO) participates in the book drive: ThriftBooks/Worldwide Book Drive and other community activities, for example, Highway cleaning, etc.
- ESO is collaborating with the Nepali Student Community to learn more about the Nepali culture
- Faculty members regularly attend workshops, for example, Anti-Racism, seminars and professional conferences
- The faculty members are committed to student recruitment and retention through mentoring, advising and internship opportunities



Program Review: 2017

- We successfully completed the Program Review in 2017
- Purpose: to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) of the Department
- Dr. Chia Youvee Vang, the external Reviewer, submitted her report April 28, 2017
- Dr. Vang is Associate Professor Department of History & Department of Comparative Ethnic Studies University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Department responded to the report
- Dr. Maria Bevacqua, Interim Dean, after a meeting with Provost Wells, submitted her summary report in 2017
- Department responded to her report
- The report is attached in a book format

Program Narratives

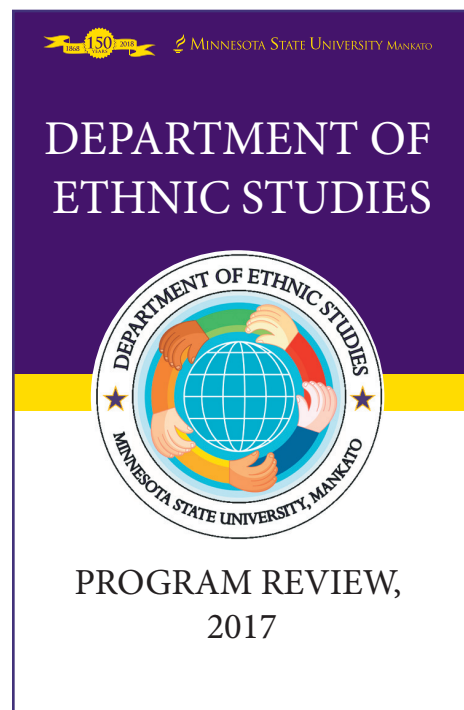
- During fall semester 2017, faculty submitted program narratives as stipulated in the General Fund Strategic Budget Planning Process
- The University Strategic Directions 2016-2021 document emphasizes the importance of enriching student success and enhancing faculty distinction and academic achievement
- The narratives included three programs: Bachelor of Science in Ethnic Studies, Master of Science in Ethnic and Multicultural Studies and Graduate Diversity Certificate

Purpose

- To classify programs on the following categories: 1) reduction, 2) maintenance and 3) additional investment. The university's decision to maintain our two programs came in early spring semester 2018.
- The two programs: Bachelor of Science in Ethnic Studies, and Master of Science in Ethnic and Multicultural Studies are classified as "maintenance." The classification is important for the purpose of maintaining or making additional investments on programs to further the University's vision, mission and values.

Notable achievements: Research

- In 2018, Professor Hanh Huy Phan earned a Diversity Lifetime Achievement Award, Office of Institutional Diversity, Minnesota State University-Mankato
- In 2018, Drs. Darboe & Allen have a book contract with Cognella Academic Publishing to write "An Anthology on race/ethnic relations"
- In 2017, Somali Immigrants: In their Shoes by Patricia Hutchison & Content Consultant: Dr. Kebba Darboe, Professor of Ethnic Studies, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- The aforementioned textbook published in 2017 by Child's World, Incorporated. It is written for grades 3-6 schools in Minnesota and other primary schools throughout the world



Dr. Kebba Darboe, Chair's Book Review, 2018

By Dr. Kebba Darboe

The author of *Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations* by Yale Law Professor Amy Chua (2018) pointed out that humans are tribal—need to belong to a group. The group identities that matter are ethnic, religious, or clan-based. These group identities or political tribes tend to drive both domestic and foreign policies of America. Arguably, America's political elites are blind to the tribal politics because they view the world in terms of nation-states, for example, "Capitalism versus Communism, Democracy versus Authoritarianism, and the "Free World" versus the "Axis of Evil," (Chua, 2018: 2). This blindness to ideological battles and tribal politics led to foreign policy failures in the Vietnam War, Iraq, Afghanistan and Venezuela, etc. In addition, one consequence of America's political elite's tribalism is the election of President Donald J. Trump in 2016.

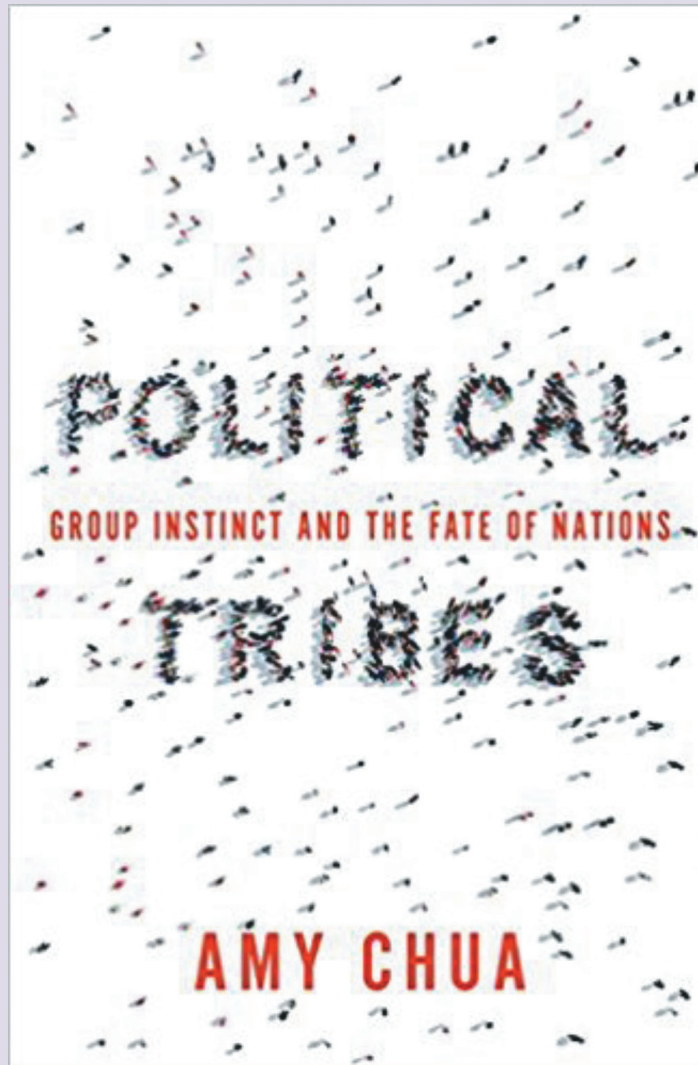
Chapter Eight: Democracy and Political Tribalism in America

America is woven of many strands; I would recognize them and let it so remain.... Our fate is to become one, and yet many—This is not prophecy, but description, (ibid. p. 165).

—Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Today in America, every racial/ethnic group feels threatened: whites, blacks, Latinos, Asians, Muslims, men, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, liberals and conservatives. As a result, American tribalism is correlated to race, for example, the Left (liberals) argues that right-wing (conservatives)

tribalism characterized by bigotry and racism is dividing the country. Conversely, the Right argues that left-wing tribalism characterized by identity politics sows seeds of divisions.



The Browning of America

[The Browning and Beiging of America Dynamics]

To date, white Americans are the dominant majority. Since 1965, however, America experienced a population increase through liberalization of immigration policy. As a consequence, the complexion of America is “browning” because a large number of immigrants are coming from Asia and Latin America. According to Pew Foundation projections white Americans will not be a majority by 2055, (ibid, p.167). Additionally, Asians are outnumbering the Hispanics as the largest group of new immigrants. As a result, “browning” is being replaced by “beiging,” (ibid, p.167).

This rapid demographic change is laced with cultural, economic and political anxieties. For instance, according to the Public Religion Research Institute postelection survey, “52 percent of Trump voters said that they feel like the country has changed so much, ...feel like strangers in their own land,” (ibid, p.170). In summary, Dr. Chua challenges us to cross the chasm between groups, not by denying our differences, but celebrating it—“Our fate is to become one...”

A great read!

Reference

Chua, A. 2018. Political tribes: Group instinct and the fate of nations. New York: Penguin Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC.

Ellison, R. 1994. Invisible man (Modern Library ed.). New York: Modern Library

**PLEASE KEEP US POSTED.
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Name (Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr.): _____

Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____

I AM: Alumni— Year Graduated: _____, Degree: _____

Friend of the Department of Ethnic Studies

Other

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ON:

Serving as a Professional Mentor

Providing an internship

Contributing to the Ethnic Studies Development Fund at the Minnesota State Foundation (tax deductible)

THANK YOU!

Please tear off, fold, and place in an envelope addressed to:

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Or email this information to kebba.darboe@mnsu.edu



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