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*From the Executive Director of the Center for Lao Studies:*

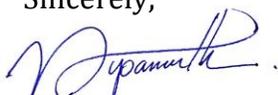
On behalf of the Center for Lao Studies, I am pleased to announce the next issue of the Journal of Lao Studies (JLS, Volume 2 Issue 1). Since the launch of JLS in early 2010, we have had an overwhelmingly positive response from all fronts—from our Lao Studies contributors to loyal readers, including graduate students, Asian American studies professors, NGO workers and Lao Studies enthusiasts.

Our featured essays include Grabowsky and Tappe’s “Important Kings of Laos,” which provides an analytical overview of kingship, nationalism, and the importance of Lao Kings to the current political situation. Mitchell’s review article, on Waeng Phalangwan’s Lao-Isan perspective on the *Lukthung* music genre, highlights the Isan ethno and regional empowerment through the power of music in the midst of a strong Central Thai domination; and finally our last essay from Southiseng and Walsh’s fieldwork research reveals the state of the labor force in the growing tourist industry of a UNESCO World Heritage City, Luang Phrabang. Also included in this issue are an interview with Dr. Grant Evans conducted by Dr. Boike Rehbein and three book reviews—all within the scope of Lao Studies.

Our gratitude goes out to our main editors, Drs. Justin McDaniel and Vathana Pholsena, CLS board, advisory board, and editorial board members, contributors, reviewers, and supporters of JLS. Without them this one-of-a-kind journal devoted to Lao Studies would not exist.

Xok Dii and enjoy!

Sincerely,



Vinya Sysamouth, Ph.D.

CLS Executive Director

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**Announcements:**

**Call for Article Submissions for the JLS:**

The study of Laos and the Lao has grown significantly over the past decade. With the opening up of some historical and manuscript archives, the improvement of communication and transportation, and the launching of joint Lao-foreign research projects, Laos has attracted a number of new scholars in diverse fields of expertise. The *Journal of Lao Studies* (JLS) is an exciting new scholarly project which is expected to become the first and most prestigious venue for researchers who work on Laos.

We are now accepting submissions of articles, book review suggestions, review articles (extended reviews of major publications, trends in the field, or of political, social, or economic events). These submissions can cover studies on Laos, the Lao diaspora (Northeast Thailand, Europe, the Americas, Australia, and so on), or studies in regards to ethnic groups found in Laos (Hmong, Akha, Khmu, among others).

Language: Lao and English are the main languages, other languages are welcomed. Please check with the editors first before submitting articles in other languages not listed here.



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