

## ABOUT CLS

Founded in 2006 as an outcome of the First International Conference on Lao Studies, the Center for Lao Studies (CLS), with a 501(c)(3) non-profit status, has established itself as a resource center for both the general public as well as those of Lao heritage, and serves as a liaison to cultural and community organizations, universities, and academic institutions.

The mission of the Center for Lao Studies is to advance knowledge and engagement in the field of Lao Studies through research, education and information sharing. CLS vision is to be an institution that leads and excels in the pursuit of knowledge in the field of Lao Studies.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

CLS has the following goals and objectives:

- To sponsor conferences, workshops, seminars and forums with guest speakers from Laos, the United States and other countries;
- To support scholarly research by facilitating and sourcing opportunities for professionals, artists, graduate and undergraduate students and academia, and sponsoring cultural exchanges for the general public interested in gaining intensive exposure to the various disciplines of Lao Studies;
- To support scholarly publications.
- To support research that promotes and preserves the languages and cultures of the indigenous peoples of Laos. This includes linguistics, history, music, religion, economics, archeology, sociology, and other related fields;
- To engage in public relations, serving as a clearinghouse for referrals to resources and other direct services.

## PUBLICATIONS & HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

**PUBLICATIONS:** CLS strives to produce academic publications of a high standard. Together with the Southeast Asian Publications at Northern Illinois University (NIU), CLS co-published the *Contemporary Lao Studies: Research on Development, Language and Culture, and Traditional Medicine* in 2009. It is a



CLS first publication

compilation of selected papers from the First International Conference on Lao Studies (2005) at NIU.

In the Winter of 2009 CLS launched an academic peer-reviewed, *Journal of Lao Studies* (JLS). The Journal is devoted to the discussion of the ethno-linguistic groups of Laos and affiliated groups residing in countries neighboring Laos, as well as those in the Lao diaspora. JLS includes articles, interviews, and extended reviews of major publications, trends in the field of political, social, and economic events.

## HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS:

*International Conferences on Lao Studies.* The International Conference on Lao Studies (ICLS) is held once every three years, rotating among various academic institutions around the world. ICLS provides an international forum for scholars to present and discuss various aspects of the ethno-linguistic groups from Laos, the Lao in neighboring countries (Burma, Cambodia, China, and Vietnam), cross-border ethnic groups in Laos' neighboring countries, and overseas Lao. Northern Illinois University became the first host in 2005, followed by Arizona State University in 2007. In July 2010, CLS along with the Center for Research on Plurality in the Mekong Region (CERP) will co-host the third Lao Studies conference at Khon Kaen University, Thailand.



*Study Abroad Program.* CLS launched its first Summer Study Abroad in Laos (SAIL) program in June of 2009, giving Lao Americans and other Americans the opportunity to study at the Lao-American College in Vientiane, Laos' capital. The eight-week program consists of language lessons, cultural activities, excursions within the country, and volunteering with an international nongovernmental organization (NGO). For the 2010 SAIL program CLS is joining forces with the San Francisco State University to offer credits to its participants.



*International Lao New Year Festival (ILNYF).* Together with the Lao Heritage Foundation and the Laotian American National Alliance, CLS co-hosted the First International Lao New Year Festival in April of 2009 at the San Francisco City Hall Civic Center. The ILNYF includes cultural performances, benefit concert, Tak Baht/Buddhist Alms offering, Kato Lao championship demonstration, and a night reception. The Lao New Year attracted over 15,000 attendees far and wide. The Second International Lao New Year will take place on April 10, 2010 in San Francisco.

## MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of CLS. Your tax-deductible contribution will assist CLS in achieving its goals, objectives, and programs.

**MEMBERSHIP BY CHECK:** Please submit the following information along with your check or money order to CLS: 1) Name; 2) Address; 3) Phone number; 4) Email; and 5) Level of Support (see membership category on back). Send to:

Center for Lao Studies  
65 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103 USA

**BY CREDIT CARD:** Visit our website, [www.laostudies.org](http://www.laostudies.org). Click on the 'Support' tab to pay on-line.

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & BENEFITS

### BASIC LEVEL

- \*Students \$30
  - \*Seniors (age 65 or over) \$40
  - \*Individuals \$50
  - \*Thong Level (Bronze) \$100
  - \*Ngeun Level (Silver) \$250
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- ### UPPER LEVEL
- \*Kham Level (Gold) \$500
  - \*Kham Khao Level (Platinum) \$1,000-\$2,499
  - \*Sponsor \$2,500-\$4,999
  - \*Partner \$5,000-\$9,999
  - \*Patron \$10,000 and up

### Benefits of membership include:

- Our original research, peer-reviewed academic *Journal of Lao Studies*
- Our E-newsletter 'CLS News & Notes' featuring events, seminars, exchange programs and new publications
- Invitation to all CLS sponsored events and receptions
- 15% discount on select CLS programs and activities
- 10% discount on all CLS gift shop merchandises

### Upper Level membership benefits include all of the above, plus our special thanks:

- Free admission for two guests (Gold), four guests (Platinum), six guests (Sponsor), ten guests (Partner), or fifteen guests (Patron) to select events and receptions
- Complimentary copy of CLS' first publication, *Contemporary Lao Studies: Research on Development, Language and Culture, and Traditional Medicine*
- Recognition on publicity material, including the website
- Name visibly listed on CLS offices (where applicable)
- Free DVD of the First International Conference on Lao Studies

*The Center for Lao Studies is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status. Donations made to CLS may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*



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*Promoting and advancing the field of Lao Studies.*  
*ສົ່ງເສີມ ແລະ ສັນຍະສູນຄວາມຳນວຍຳໃນພາກວິຊາລາວສຶກສາ.*



Multi-ethnic women of Laos  
by Boon Vong | www.b-vong.com



Map of Laos  
by worldtravels.com



## CENTER FOR LAO STUDIES

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