

Department of Economics presents

David S. Saurman
Provocative Lecture Series 2019



Channy Chhi Laux

M.S. Santa Clara University

“The Cambodian Genocide and Communism”

In April 1975, a communist regime by the name Khmer Rouge, seized control of Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge instituted a program to establish a “socialist agrarian republic”, by evacuating all cities, and relocating the Cambodian population to forced labor camps, where starvation, overwork, disease, torture and execution led to the death of some 1.5 to 3 million Cambodians.

Channy Chhi Laux will share her story of growing up in Cambodia, and having her life and family torn apart by the “Black Uniforms”, as she calls them. Her personal experience with slave labor, torture and cruelty, as well as human kindness and courage are brought out in her award-winning book, *Short Hair Detention: Memoir of a Thirteen-Year-Old Girl Surviving the Cambodian Genocide*.

Channy Chhi Laux is a survivor of the Cambodian genocide. When the Khmer Rouge took over the country in 1975, she was thirteen years old. In June of 1979, Channy arrived in Lincoln Nebraska as a refugee. She attended Lincoln High School after four years of no schooling and not knowing a word of English, and went on to earn undergraduate degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Master of Science in Applied Mathematics from Santa Clara University.

Channy worked in Silicon Valley as an engineer in the Aerospace and Biotech industries for 30 years before starting her own business, Angkor Cambodian Food. She received a soft™ award, recognizing excellence in food innovation. Channy has also received multiple book awards for publishing her memoir, *Short Hair Detention*.

<http://www.channychhilaux.com/>

**Tuesday,
February 19th**

SJSU, Student
Union Theatre
5:15-6:45pm

*Free and open
to the public*

The Department of Economics invites students, faculty, and the general public to consider intellectual arguments on controversial topics. Presenters are noted for outstanding scholarship and public speaking ability. This series fosters the tradition of higher education to challenge ideas and develop critical thinking in an environment of respect for intellectual discourse. Our goal is that you engage critical thinking skills to reach your own informed position on controversial issues. We invite you to attend, to relax, to ponder, and to enjoy the thought process.

For more information or to be added to our events list, please contact: John.Estill@sjsu.edu