

MAYDAY! CONFERENCE HISTORY

- 1981 Arms Control—MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
- 1982 The Response of Faith to the Nuclear Dilemma
- 1983 Seeing Through and Beyond the Mushroom Cloud
- 1984 Making Peace in a War-Keeping World
- 1985 To Negotiate a Peace
- 1986 Schooling for Peace
- 1987 Wages of War, Profits of Peace
- 1988 Building on Hope: Working for Peace
- 1989 Other Voices—Global Perspectives on the Arms Race
- 1990 Making Peace with the Earth
- 1991 U.S. Policy in the Middle East: What Roads to Peace?
- 1992 Food for a Peaceable World
- 1993 Overcoming Violence in Our Lives
- 1994 Building Community from the Inside Out
- 1995 The Challenge of Building a Non-Violent Global Community
- 1996 Land Rights, Land Use, and Social Justice
- 1997 The Family and Public Policy
- 1998 Immigration and Social Justice
- 1999 Toward a Worldwide Ban on Landmines
- 2000 Vietnam: 25 Years On
- 2001 Revisiting the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux after 150 Years
- 2002 Sanctions and Beyond: What Is the Human Price?
- 2003 World Religions: Waging War or Promoting Peace?
- 2004 The United Nations at the Crossroads
- 2005 Energy for Peace
- 2006 AIDS + AFRICA: The Unfolding Crisis
- 2007 Community Food Security
- 2008 Troubled Water
- 2009 Tiananmen +20 Years

Gustavus Adolphus College is grateful to
Florence and the late Raymond Sponberg
of North Mankato, Minnesota, founders and sustainers of
the annual MAYDAY! Conference on Peace.

2009 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Richard Leitch, *Conference Chair*
Dean Wahlund, *Arrangements Chair*
Neely Camp, *Graphic Designer*
Holly Andersen
Mimi Gerstbauer
Brian Johnson

Sarah Johnson
David Obermiller
Lianying Shan
Florence Sponberg
Rita Stevermer
Edi Thorstensson

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TIANANMEN +20 YEARS



29th Annual MAYDAY! Peace Conference
Wednesday, April 29, 2009

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29th Annual MAYDAY! Peace Conference

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9–11 a.m. *Registration* | Linner Lounge, Johnson Student Union
- 9 a.m.–4:15 p.m. *Democracy Wall* | Jackson Campus Center, Upper Level
Tank Man Documentary Film | Evelyn Young Dining Room
- 10 a.m. *Welcoming Service* | Christ Chapel
Prelude: *Improvisation on Pao-Ma*
Noah Setterholm '11, pianist
Hymn #852: *Golden Breaks the Dawn*
Music: Te-ngai Hu
Text: Tzu-chen Chao; para. Frank W. Price
David Fienen, fac., pianist
Invocation and Prayer
Brian T. Johnson '80, chaplain
Welcome
Jack Ohle, president, Gustavus Adolphus College
Greeting
Richard Leitch, MAYDAY! Committee chair
- Opening Keynote Address*
Introduction: Holly Andersen, MAYDAY! Committee member
- "Prospects for Democratization Twenty Years Later"**
Dr. Andrew Nathan, Chinese affairs specialist and author
Columbia University
- 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. *Meal Break* | *Democracy Wall* | *The Tank Man Film*
- 12:30 p.m.–1:20 p.m. *Concurrent Workshops – Session I*
Alumni Hall, Johnson Student Union
"Life in Contemporary China: A Gendered Perspective"
Lianying Shan, assistant professor of Japanese studies, and
David Obermiller, assistant professor of history
- The Dive, Johnson Student Union
"Reflections: Chinese Students in America/American Students in China"
Gustavus Students
- 1:30 p.m.–2:20 p.m. *Workshops – Session II (same as Session I)*
- 2:30–3:30 p.m. *Afternoon Address* | Christ Chapel
Introduction: Rita Stevermer, MAYDAY! Committee member
- "Massacre, Miracle, and Model"**
Dr. Yang Jianli, author and leading advocate for China's democracy
Boston, Massachusetts
- 3:30 p.m. *Closing Ceremony and Reception* | Christ Chapel

TIANANMEN +20 YEARS

In the spring of 1989, more than a million people descended on a Chinese public square and peacefully protested in search of change. What type of change did they seek? How did the government respond? What has changed in the relationship between Chinese citizens and Chinese government during the past twenty years? TIANANMEN + 20 Years, the theme of this year's annual Gustavus MAYDAY! Conference, is a retrospective examination of the popular protests of 1989 in China.

DEMOCRACY WALL

In 1978, Chinese people began posting comments about China's situation in the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution on a brick wall. It provided a place to challenge leaders, exchange ideas, and promote change. For the MAYDAY! Conference a "Democracy Wall" of canvas will provide guests an opportunity to exchange ideas, offer a poem, draw a picture, and celebrate free speech by being part of a lively, honest, and respectful dialogue.

FILM DOCUMENTARY: THE TANK MAN

On June 5, 1989, one day after the Chinese army's deadly crushing of the Tiananmen Square protests, a single, unarmed young man stood his ground before a column of tanks on the Avenue of Eternal Peace. The 90-minute PBS "Frontline" documentary of *The Tank Man* will be shown continuously at MAYDAY! in the Evelyn Young Dining Room.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Gustavus professors Lianying Shan and David Obermiller will explore the issues of gender and China's One Child Policy. Chenyu Yang, Xuzheng Wang, and Yujie Cheng, Chinese students presently studying at Gustavus, and American students Cynthia Yang, Greg Boone, and Nick Stramp, who studied in China, will speak of their impressions about each others' country.

The Annual MAYDAY! Peace Conference

was established at Gustavus Adolphus College in 1981. The title—MAYDAY!—signifies both the international distress call and a call to action. The conference has celebrated a rich history of programs centering on such themes as land rights, the arms race, violence in community, hunger, the banning of landmines, food security, global water issues, and political policies relating to peace and social justice.

This year's MAYDAY! Peace Conference, Tiananmen +20 Years, helps celebrate Gustavus's 2008–09 Global Insight Program on China.



FEATURED SPEAKERS



Andrew Nathan is the Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science at Columbia University. His teaching and research interests include Chinese politics and foreign policy, the comparative study of political participation and political culture, and human rights. He has authored and collaborated on many books, including *China's Crisis* (1990), *The Tiananmen Papers*, edited with Perry Link (2001), and *China's New Rulers* (2003).

Professor Nathan serves on the advisory committee of Human Rights Watch, Asia, the board of Human Rights in China, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the National Committee on U.S.–China Relations. He is frequently interviewed for the print and electronic media, has advised on several film documentaries in China, has consulted for Asian businesses and governments, and has published essays and op-eds in the *New Republic*, the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, the *China Quarterly*, *Asian Survey*, the *Boston Globe*, and elsewhere.

Nathan, a past Guggenheim Fellow, will open this year's MAYDAY! Peace Conference by addressing the "Prospects of Democratization Twenty Years Later."



Yang Jianli was a Tiananmen Square activist in 1989 before immigrating to the United States to earn two Ph.D.s—one in political economy from Harvard University and another in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley. Despite being blacklisted by the Chinese government for his political activism, he returned to his homeland in April 2002 on a friend's passport to witness the labor unrest in Northeast China. Jianli was detained while trying to board

an internal flight and subsequently sentenced to five years in prison for espionage and illegal entry charges. In 2007, Jianli was allowed to return to the United States.

Now living in Boston, Jianli continues to be a "leading advocate for China's democracy" through interviews, speaking engagements, his support group at www.initiativesforchina.org, and as chair of Foundation for China in the 21st Century. His newest book (in Chinese) is titled *Non-violent Struggle and Constitutional Reform—On China's Road toward Democracy*. Jianli will address the MAYDAY! audience in the afternoon, speaking on "Massacre, Miracle, and Model."