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

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

800 West College Avenue | St. Peter, Minnesota 56082 | gustavus.edu
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.”

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. 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 as part of the “Tiananmen +20 Years” event.

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