



formal education, the Hmong youth in America are faced with a need to pursue higher levels of learning. At UNC, HSAC endeavors to reach out to Hmong students by sponsoring an annual 'Carolina Tour'. The project involves bringing about 100 high school students from the counties of Burke and Catawba (where Hmong people are concentrated in North Carolina) up to Chapel Hill for the length of a day. During this event, the students are given the opportunity to interact with a guest speaker, tour the university, and gain valuable information on the college application process. This year,

HSAC will be hosting its third annual tour on April 9th.

Among the Hmong, there is a proverb that says, "Hla dej yuav hle khau. Tsiv teb tsaws chaw yuav hle hau." In English, this phrase can be translated as saying, "When crossing rivers, take off your shoes. When changing countries, take off your hat." In correlation with this saying, many Hmong have humbly restarted their lives in the United States. However, the Hmong presence is beginning to gradually assert itself in a wide variety of ways. Whether

it be through college organizations or government positions, the Hmong are definitely finding their own niche in this "salad-bowl" society. Perhaps more than ever, the Hmong are beginning to demonstrate the fact that they too can embrace progression while reflecting on their culture. And while hardship and tragedy are the reasons why they are here, aspiration and hope will be the reasons why they will thrive. Indeed, the Hmong people are prime examples of the claim that in this "land of opportunity", anything is possible. ~EW