Executive Director of Oberlin Shansi

Gavin Tritt joined Oberlin Shansi as Executive Director in January 2013 after nearly 20 years with The Asia Foundation, an international development organization based in San Francisco. His last position with the Foundation was as Country Representative for Cambodia. In that role, he provided leadership for all Asia Foundation programs, operations, and external relations in Cambodia, including work on governance and economic reform, promoting human rights, and combatting human trafficking. Gavin holds a degree in East Asian Studies from Yale University and a Master of International Affairs from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs. Following graduation from Yale he taught English at Hunan Medical University in Changsha, China and the Chinese University of Hong Kong as a Yale-China Teaching Fellow.

Southeast Asia Tour Highlights

• Explore one of the most remarkable man-made structures in the world, Angkor Wat, as well as several other stunning Khmer ruins, all designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

• Take a cyclo rickshaw tour of Hanoi’s Old Quarter and attend a water puppet show, the endearing art form unique to the Red River Delta people.

• Cruise along the romantic and poetic Huong River surrounding Hue City on a traditional dragon boat and disembark on the bank of the Thien Mu (Celestial Lady) Pagoda, the most ancient Buddhist pagoda in Hue.

• Visit the Imperial City of the Nguyen Dynasty with a Vietnamese specialist of Imperial Hue and former Vietcong officer.

• Stroll through the bustling Ben Thanh market in Ho Chi Minh with a local chef to buy ingredients that will be used during a hands-on Vietnamese cooking class in his private kitchen.

Travel with Oberlin Study Leader, Gavin Tritt

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Discover the Splendors of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos!

Discover Laos
January 24 - 27, 2015
5-day / 4-night Extension

Explore the fascinating country of Laos. Start by discovering the charming city of Luang Prabang, previously the Royal Capital City of Laos and named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. Admire the city’s colonial era architecture, opulent pagodas, impressive palaces and temples, and vibrant night markets. Take a private boat ride along the Mekong River to the mystical Tham Ting caves and stop by small villages on the way known for their production of rice whisky and the manufacture of silk products and Saa paper.

In Vientiane, enjoy fascinating visits to textile workshops and see the most remarkable monuments of Laos’ capital including: Wat Sisaket with its Buddha statues; Ho Phra Keo with Lao and Khmer sacred art; as well as the residence of the supreme leader of Lao Buddhism, Pha That Luang.
Southeast Asia

with Gavin Tritt,
Executive Director of Oberlin Shansi

January 11 - 24, 2015

Optional 4-night extension to Laos!

Explore Ancient & Modern Treasures of Vietnam and Cambodia
**Jan. 11: Departures from U.S.A.**
Take independent overnight flights to Hanoi, Vietnam.

**Jan. 12: Arrival in Hanoi, Vietnam**
Upon arrival, join a local guide on an introductory tour of Hanoi, the second largest city of Vietnam, during a short drive to the elegant Hotel de l’Opéra. Check-in at the hotel and take the remainder of the day to relax and rest.

*Hotel de l’Opéra Hanoi*

**Jan. 13: Orientation of Hanoi**
Explore Hanoi’s revered Ba Dinh Square, housing the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the unique One Pillar Pagoda, the stilt house of the Ho Chi Minh House, and the Presidential Palace. After lunch at a local restaurant, tour the Museum of Ethnology with exhibits showcasing fascinating lifestyles and cultures of Vietnam’s 54 ethnic minority groups. Savor a typical Vietnamese dinner. Enjoy a water puppet show, an endearing art form unique to the people of the Red River Delta.

*Hotel de l’Opéra Hanoi (B, L, D)*

**Jan. 14: Further Exploration of Hanoi**
Embark on a tour by cyclo around the enchanting streets of the Old Quarter to observe the bustle of daily life in Hanoi. Next, tour the exhibits of the Hoa Lo Prison (also known as the Hanoi Hilton). After a relaxing lunch, visit the Temple of Literature, the first national university of Vietnam. Built in the 11th century, the temple is dedicated to the worship of Confucius and scholars, and has become the symbol of Hanoi and Vietnamese culture. Next, take a guided tour of the Vietnam National Museum of Fine Arts featuring Vietnamese art of the 20th century. Later, visit the private art gallery of a local American expatriate.

*Hotel de l’Opéra Hanoi (B, L, D)*

**Jan. 15: Departures for Hue**
Take a short flight to Hue, the former imperial capital of the Nguyen Dynasty. Upon arrival, transfer to the Imperial Hotel Hue, while a local guide gives an orientation of the city. After an independent lunch, visit the historic Imperial City with a Vietnamese specialist of Imperial Hue and former Viet Cong officer. Discover the history and beauty of this revered World Heritage destination by touring the Flag Tower, the South Door, the Edict Pavilion, the Supreme Harmony Palace, and the Forbidden Purple City. Dinner is included at a local restaurant.

*Imperial Hotel Hue (B, D)*

**Jan. 16: Discovering Hue**
Visit the Tu Duc Royal Tomb, built amid fragrant frangipani and pine trees and designed by the emperor himself. Continue to the Khai Dinh Royal Tomb, a gaudy mix of Gothic, Baroque, and classical Chinese architecture. After lunch, cruise the romantic Huong River. Disembark at the Thien Mu (Celestial Lady) Pagoda, considered to be the country’s most beautiful pagoda. After returning to town, get a feel for daily Vietnamese life while exploring the Dong Ba Market, which offers a myriad of goods and local specialties.

*Imperial Hotel Hue (B, L)*

**Jan. 17: Departure for Saigon**
Fly to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly named Saigon. Enjoy an independent lunch and embark on a guided tour of the city’s cultural and historical highlights like the War Remnants Museum, the Reunification Palace, and the Thien Hau Pagoda, also known as the Lady of the Sea. Join fellow travelers for a delicious dinner of southern Vietnamese cuisine this evening.

*Liberty Central Hotel Saigon (B, D)*

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Top Photo: Hanoi One Pillar Pagoda by Staffan Scherz
Hanoi Temple-of-the-Jade by Stefan Fussan
Jan. 18: Vietnamese Cuisine & Cu Chi
Stroll through the bustling Ben Thanh market with a local chef to buy ingredients to use for a Vietnamese cooking class in his private kitchen. Then enjoy eating the demonstrated dishes for lunch. Next, travel to Cu Chi, a region known for its immense network of connecting underground tunnels used by Viet Cong soldiers as communication and supply routes, living quarters, and hiding spots to withstand attacks throughout the Vietnam War. Return to Saigon for an independent evening and dinner.

Liberty Central Hotel Saigon (B, L)

Jan. 19: Departure for Phnom Penh
Depart Vietnam and fly to Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia. Visit Cambodia’s Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda, and National Museum of Fine Arts, an architectural masterpiece containing beautiful pieces that once adorned Cambodia’s temples. Continue to the Buddhist temple, Wat Phnom Pagoda, nestled atop a hill, standing as the tallest religious structure in the city. Stroll through the “Russian Market” with free time to shop. Savor your first taste of Cambodian cuisine tonight at a relaxing dinner.

King Grand Suite Hotel Phnom Penh (B, D)

Jan. 20: Khmer Rouge Regime
Start with a profound visit to the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide, a former high school in Phnom Penh used as the notorious Security Prison 21 (S-21) by the Khmer Rouge regime from 1975-79. Continue onto Choeung Ek, the site of a former orchard and execution field, to pay homage to the over one million people killed by the Khmer Rouge regime. After lunch, the remainder of the day is free to relax and further explore the city independently.

King Grand Suite Hotel Phnom Penh (B, L)

Jan. 21: Departure for Siem Reap
Take a flight to Siem Reap, known for the astounding Khmer monuments of Angkor. After lunch, visit the Angkor National Museum to understand traditional art of this great civilization. Then, attend a private lecture by a representative from the World Monuments Fund to learn about challenges of preservation in Cambodia. An optional drive to Angkor Wat will be offered to enjoy a magnificent sunset view, followed by a delicious dinner.

Na Ta Nha Boutique Hotel, Siem Reap (B, D)

Jan. 22: Angkor
Visit Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world, and explore its towers, pavilions, Buddhist and Hindu sculptures and strikingly extensive bas reliefs depicting ancient Hindu legends. After lunch, discover the size of Angkor Thom, with the Terrace of the Leper King, a platform adorned with sculpted Apsara nymph faces, and the Terrace of the Elephants, where royal audiences and public ceremonies took place. Then, discover the famous Bayon, an enigmatic temple composed of 54 towers and 206 beautifully carved figures. After returning to Siem Reap, visit the ruins of Ta Prohm, overgrown with winding banyan tree roots.

Na Ta Nha Boutique Hotel, Siem Reap (B, D)

Jan. 23: Siem Reap
Discover the 12th-century temple of Preah Khan with a representative of the World Monuments Fund. The temple remains largely unrestored due to wildlife conditions surrounding the temple. Next, admire the splendid 10th-century Temple of Banteay Srei, or “Women’s Citadel” built mostly of beautiful red sandstone. After an independent lunch, travel to a nearby village with a local to learn about the harvest of sap. Experience everyday life of modern Angkor inhabitants while visiting a private home and listening to anecdotes about life during the Khmer Rouge regime. Gather for a farewell dinner celebrating a memorable journey in Southeast Asia.

Na Ta Nha Boutique Hotel, Siem Reap (B, L)

Jan. 24: Departures for U.S.A.
Transfer to the airport for independent flights home or continue to the Laos extension.
Cancellations & Refunds:
All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. If a tour member cancels, the following scale of charges is incurred: There is a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. The costs associated with any tickets purchased for planned activities (as indicated in the itinerary) are non-refundable. Written cancellation received ISDI before October 3, 2014: full refund of any recoverable land costs; less $2,000 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between October 4, 2014 and November 27, 2014: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less $2,000 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between November 28, 2014 and December 25, 2014: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not acceptable. A package of cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance is strongly recommended. © 2014 International Seminar Design, Inc. / CST 2072963-40

Tour Price Inclusions:
Twelve (12) nights accommodation as listed in the itinerary; breakfast daily; six (6) lunches, six (6) dinners, two (2) glasses of wine at welcome and farewell dinners; water, bottled water on daily excursions; leadership of Dr. T optimistic; services of an experienced ISDI Tour Manager; entrance fees to all visits in itinerary; transportation by private motor coach as per program; one (1) group airport transfer on arrival and departure days; economy flights to cities as listed in the itinerary; gratuities for local guides and drivers; taxes, services, hotel porterage fees.

Tour Price Exclusions:
Airline tickets from/to the United States, taxes and fuel surcharges; airport porterage; individual transfers to and from the airport; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time; personal items such as liquors and mineral water except where noted in the itinerary; tips for chambermaids; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage and tour cancellation; any other items not specifically included.

Deposit & Final Payment:
A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant will be required to guarantee participation in the main tour and an additional $500 per paying participant is required for participation in the extension to Laos. This deposit may be paid by check, Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on October 3, 2014. Final payment must be made by check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations will be accepted beyond October 3, 2014 on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

Terms & Conditions:
International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, Oberlin College and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. ISDI and Oberlin College reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

Space is limited, so register today!