

# Making an Impact...



Chapman law and film students collaborated to produce a documentary film on human rights abuses in Cambodia as part of a unique new interdisciplinary summer program.

## Professor John Hall Spearheaded a Human Rights Documentary Film Project While Monitoring the Cambodian War Crimes Tribunal

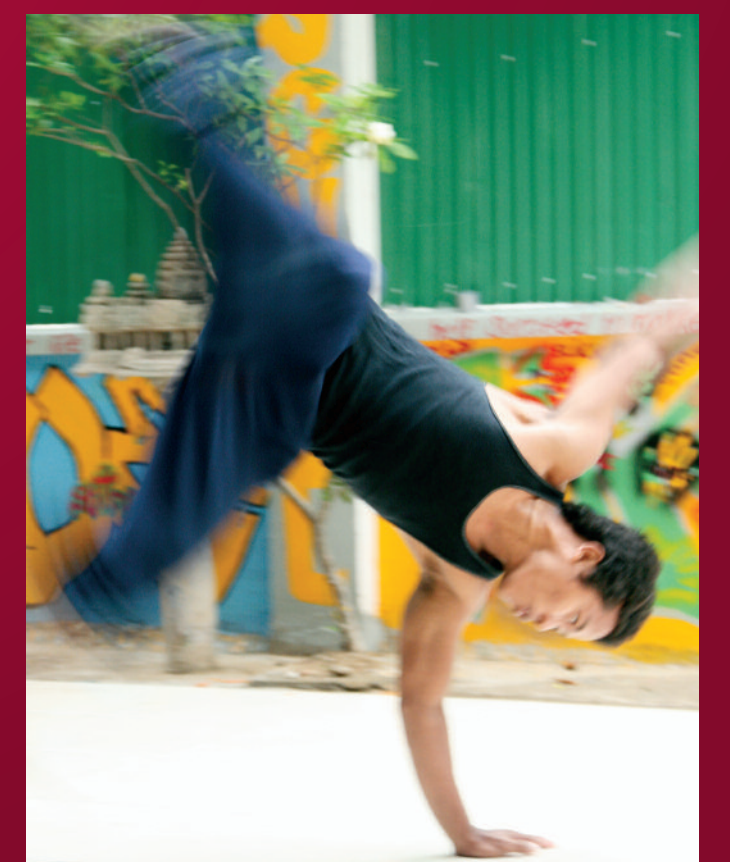


Professor John Hall has had an influential year in the international human rights arena. His recent writings in the *Christian Science Monitor*, *International Herald Tribune* and *Wall Street Journal* have brought global attention and important changes to the Cambodian war crimes tribunal. This past summer, he spearheaded a project that brought students from Chapman schools of law, film and humanities together to create a documentary about Cambodian deportees, homeless children, and the revival of the country's cultural traditions.

Professor Hall's scholarship brought him into a role as an investigator of the United Nations-sponsored Khmer Rouge Tribunal that was intended to bring to trial the leaders of the Khmer Rouge regime that killed over 1 million Cambodians from 1975–1979. His research led him to write several opinion pieces about human rights concerns in Cambodia that had a major impact on the tribunal. In 2007, a piece that appeared in *The Wall Street Journal Asia* exposed the corruption within the tribunal and forced a major reconstruction.

With his background in international human rights, Professor Hall was a natural choice to take a leading role in an interdisciplinary project that would create documentary films on human rights issues in developing countries. In the summer of 2008, he and Chapman film school Professor Jeff Swimmer took students to Cambodia to film the first of four planned documentaries. Upon the completion of post-production and legal work at the law and film schools (occurring during the Fall of 2008), the documentary will be presented at film festivals and academic gatherings in early 2009.

Regarding his experience in Cambodia this summer, Professor Hall noted, "The students were committed to the issues at hand. They pushed themselves to do justice to the people and the organizations that needed them."



**"It is deeply troubling that the Cambodian government has been allowed to interfere with the tribunal process and allegations of corruption may have been, in effect, covered up."**

*Wall Street Journal* (U.S. and Asia) Op-ed, "Yet Another U.N. Scandal," September 21, 2007

**"No investigation has ever been undertaken, for example, to address the kickback allegations."**

*Wall Street Journal Asia*, Op-ed, "The Khmer Rouge Tribunal's Rebirth," June 9, 2008

**"The taint of political influence, corruption and mismanagement [are] continuing to surround the tribunal."**

*The Christian Science Monitor*, Op-ed, "Don't Pave Cambodia's Flawed Path to Justice," January 15, 2008

**"Speaking truth to power has never been more difficult than at times like these. Supporting a free press in Cambodia has never been more critical."**

*International Herald Tribune*, Op-ed, "Cambodia's free press under fire," July 27, 2008

Professor John Hall poses with film and law students during the shooting of human rights documentary film in Cambodia during the summer of 2008. The film follows the story of a deportee from the United States who perfects the art of hip hop street dancing in Cambodia (Shown at right).