CoLA's Festival of Ideas
Global Institute

Keynote Speaker
Luong Ung

The activist and bestselling author whose memoir *First They Killed My Father*, about surviving the Cambodian genocide as a child, was made into the critically acclaimed *feature film, produced & directed by Angelina Jolie*. The screenplay was co-written by the author and Angelina Jolie (Netflix, 09/2017). Loung was also one of the writers for the "Girl Rising," a groundbreaking documentary film directed by Academy Award nominee Richard Robbins. The book received the Asian/Pacific American Librarians’ Association Award for Excellence in Adult Non-fiction Literature (2001), and is widely taught and selected for community read programs in high schools and universities across the U.S. and internationally. Loung’s other books include *Lucky Child: A Daughter of Cambodia Reunites with the Sister She Left Behind*, and *Lulu in the Sky: A Daughter of Cambodia Finds Love, Healing and Double Happiness*. For 10 years, she was the spokesperson for the "Campaign for a Landmine-Free World," a project of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation that co-founded the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and was co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997. She has been widely featured in the media globally.
The Texas Board Certified and nationally recognized attorney has held presidential and gubernatorial appointments in various prestigious boards and councils. He is the founder of Monty & Ramirez LLP, a law firm focused on the representation of companies and individuals in immigration, labor, and employment law matters throughout the nation.

Before attending law school, Mr. Monty was a 1991 graduate of UTA’s College of Liberal Arts, where he was a History major.

Monty is also the author of The Sons of Wetbacks, a memoir that discusses immigration in America, the need for an immigration reform, and how the nation benefits from Latino immigration. For more information, visit montyramirezlaw.com.