

VIETNAMESE AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT NAME
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Title

Vietnamese American Oral History Project

Date(s)

1999-2002

Extent

35 interviews

Repository

Center for Oral and Public History
California State University, Fullerton

Project Abstract

This project is a compilation of oral histories with Vietnamese American community members that represent the immigrant Vietnamese American experience in California. Conducted mostly with those who lived in Orange County, CA, topics discussed include twentieth century Vietnam, including thoughts on French colonization and World War II, the Vietnamese War, Fall of Saigon in 1975, their refugee status and arrival in the United States, including cultural and linguistic challenges, and adaptation to American culture while retaining one's Vietnamese identity. Together, these oral histories create a collective consciousness of Vietnamese Americans—about themselves, community, society, and the world. All interviews were conducted by California State University, Fullerton student Trangdai Tranguyen.

Restrictions

None, except Tue Huu Nguyen (OH2776) and Kieu Chinh (OH2850). Please see individual oral history for information regarding restrictions.

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OH 2842

Bui, Chuc Van

“An Oral History with Chuc Van Bui”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

March 8, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American

Status: Unavailable

Abstract

OH 2777

Do, Huy Mihn (b.1966)

“An Oral History with Huy Mihn Do”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

October 15, 2000

Language: English

Project: Vietnamese American

Status: not transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Dr. Huy M. Do, an Assistant professor at the Stanford University, department of Radiology. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the Vietnamese American population. Specifically, this interview discussed life after the flight from Vietnam in 1975 and the subsequent relocation to Camp Pendleton, life and education in Seattle, Washington, professional career at Stanford University, Ivy league schools, Vietnamese culture, and his perceptions of American society.

OH 2834

Hoang, Vinh N. (b. 1947)

“An Oral History with Vinh N. Hoang”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

January 8, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American

Length: 1 hour

Status: Transcribed; 18 pages

Abstract

An oral history with Vinh N. Hoang, a Vietnamese refugee. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, Hoang's life in the northern Vietnam before her family fled in 1954; education in California, Golden West College; husband going to school to practice the pharmaceutical profession in the United States, opening and operating a pharmacy in the U.S.; and discusses problems of raising children in the U.S.

OH 2872

Khiem, Cai Vi (b. 1954)

"An Oral History with Cai Vi Khiem"

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

July 23, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 4 hours

Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Cai Vi Khiem, an engineer. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, his father's military career; extensive account of his education in Vietnam, testing, preparation, and process of grade promotion, his love of reading; tutoring students to take entrance exam; leaving Vietnam after the fall of Saigon in 1975; education at Purdue University, working on cellular phone designs under Professor Charles Cooper in 1978; learning and perfecting his English; technical details of engineering; patents; working for Hughes Aircraft; management training; meeting and working with diverse groups of people; religion both Christianity and ancestral/natural/Buddhist religion; importance of doing what you love and not for money or fame.

OH 2775

Le, Ai Dinh (b. 1939)

"An Oral History with Ai Dinh Le"

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

August 22, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 3 hours

Status: Not transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Dr. Ai Dinh Le, a refugee from Vietnam, military officer, and an Orange County resident. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project (Vietnamese Photo Project), California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese American Population. Specifically, this interview highlights rural life and education in central Vietnam where the interview was born and raised; his military career; coping and adjusting to life in California in 1990 when he came under the High Ranking Officer (HO) program; morality and correct living; medical career, acupuncture, and the connection of mind and body for complete health.

OH 2984

Le, Du Tu (b. 1942)

“An Oral History with Du Tu Le”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

February 3, 2002 and May 12, 2002

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 4 ½ hours

Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Du Tu Le, a Vietnamese refugee and poet. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, Le’s self declared abnormal childhood due to physical attributes, and war-torn Vietnam; life without a father figure; military career, writing for one the three military newspaper in Vietnam during the war; poetic influences; discusses specific poems that he was written; details his relationship with his mother, her influence, sacrifices, and how she represents motherhood and womanhood from a bygone era, the devastation of her death; religious influence in poetry and life; life in the United States; working for newspapers and radio stations; and his battle with hyperthyroidism.

OH 2838

Le, Khiem Phuoc (b. 1952)

“An Oral History with Khiem Phuoc Le”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

March 1, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project
Length: Approximately 2 hours

Status: Transcribed in Vietnamese

Abstract

An oral history with Khiem Phuoc Le, a Vietnamese musician. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information on the first generation Vietnamese American population. Specifically, life in Northern Vietnam, life in Saigon from 1970-1975, leaving Vietnam in 1983, refugee camps in Malaysia and Philippines (Pula, Bidong and Singarisia), musical career, education, being on the Vietnamese radio station “Little Saigon Radio,” learning and playing different string instruments, discusses in length traditional Vietnamese music and folk music, different category and genres of Vietnamese music, and legacy and hope for future Vietnamese generation.

OH 2865

Le, Khoa Van

“An Oral History with Khoa Van Le”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

June 5, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 4 hours

Status: Not transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Khoa Van Le, a composer, photographer, conductor, radio talk show host, producer of educational television programs in Vietnam, author of several books on child rearing, and Assistant Professor for advance photography. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project (Vietnamese Photo Project), California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, his children programs in Vietnam; teaching career both in Vietnam and the United States; producing/composing music; producing film; state of communist Vietnam; art exhibits at California State University, Fullerton; and the importance of bridging cultural obstacles in bring Vietnamese music to the American public.

OH 2832

Levan, Simon

“An Oral History with Simon Levan”
Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen
January 9, 2000
Language: English
Project: Vietnamese American Project
Length: Approximately 1 hour

Status: Edited transcript

Abstract

An oral history with Simon Levan, a Vietnamese music artist. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the Vietnamese American population. Specifically, Vietnamese cultural influence in music, album “My Way,” and the music group “The Kings,” education, Vietnamese identity, and music as a medium to translate Vietnamese culture.

OH 2900

Nghiem, Dai Dao (b. 1941)
“An Oral History with Dai Dao Nghiem”
Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen
November 19, 2000
Language: English
Project: Vietnamese American Project
Length: Approximately 2 ½ hours

Status: Not transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Dai Dao Nghiem, a medical doctor. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information on the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, life in Vietnam; education; medical school in Saigon, Vietnam; career in the Vietnamese military; courting his wife; going to school in Arkansas; discusses how to perform pancreas and kidney transplants; and Vietnamese health care.

OH 2844

Nguyen, Cau Luong (b. 1955)
“An Oral History with Cau Luong Nguyen”
Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

October 13, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 3 hours

Status: Not transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Cau Luong Nguyen, a Vietnamese refugee and Intel employee. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project (Vietnamese Photo Project), California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese American population. Specifically, this interview covers education (chemistry) in Vietnam; his 20+ attempts to escape Vietnam, performing odd jobs to raise money i.e. buying expired aspirin for about 1-2 Vietnamese dollars (dong) a kilo confiscated in Cambodia during the Vietnam/Cambodian war and dissolving them to extract the main ingredient to create usable aspirin and selling it for 100 dollars a kilo, and making fireworks from fertilizer, getting caught and imprisoned; teaching English in Vietnam; education in the U.S. finishing a double major in Computer Science and electrical engineering at Berkeley; receiving the Regent Scholarship; assimilation into American society, drawbacks and barriers; and working at Intel, working in 1989 to create a battery for the laptop (transfer system interrupt), and moving into management position.

OH 2841

Nguyen, Dat Duc

“An Oral History with Dat Duc Nguyen”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

March 10, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Length: Approximately 1 ½ hours

Status: Final

Abstract

An oral history with Dat Duc Nguyen, a blind Vietnamese musician. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project (Vietnamese Photo Project), California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, life in Saigon, Vietnam, French influence on education, music education; adjusting to life in California, going to Anaheim High School, learning English; college education at California State University, Fullerton, participated in the disabled student services provided; song was included on a movie soundtrack “That Summer in L.A.”; discussion of music; and guitar playing.

OH 2840

Nguyen, Dong and Hop Thi

“An Oral History with Dong and Hop Thi Nguyen”

Interview by Trang Dai Tranguyen

March 19, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 2 ½ hours

Status: Transcribed; 80 pages

Abstract

An oral history with Dong and Hop Thi Nguyen, artists and Vietnamese refugees, residing in La Palma, California. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project (Vietnamese Photo Project), California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese American population. Specifically, this interview gives a unique perspective on the Vietnamese refugees because both Dong and Hop fled Vietnam to Germany before coming to California, discusses life in Germany and similarities and differences with Vietnam, and the weather; details the French influence and presences in Vietnam, including the educational system; high school and college education in Saigon; life in Vietnam after 1975; life at the refugee camps; artist techniques and education; current paintings expressing the landscape of Vietnam and Catholicism; working for “Bao Nguoi Viet” (Vietnamese Newspaper based in Orange County); and the history and myths of Vietnam.

OH 2875

Nguyen, Elizabeth Anh Dao (b. 1955)

“An Oral History with Elizabeth Anh Dao Nguyen”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

July 14, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 3 hours

Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Elizabeth Anh Dao Nguyen, the California Healthcare Interpreters Association (CHIA) Standards & Certification Co-Chair. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, Nguyen’s childhood and education in Vietnam, her extensive French

education, tutoring; life in Vietnam after April 30, 1975; burning books to lessen Communist suspicion of her having relations with the CIA; reeducation school (indoctrination of Communist doctrine); recounts numerous attempts to flee Vietnam; and involvement with CHIA.

OH 2851

Nguyen, Khai (b. 1940)

“An Oral History with Khai Nguyen”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

March 25, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: 2 ½ hours

Status: Not transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Khai Nguyen, a Vietnamese refugee and artist. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese American population. Specifically, this interview gives an account of Vietnamese art, techniques, Vietnamese landscaping, artists; escaping Vietnam post 1975; adjusting to life in California; art career in the United States; art exhibited at a community college in Costa Mesa, California; Cypress College; University of California, Irvine’s interest; Bowers Museums’ interest; art displayed at the Asian Pacific Museum in 1996; speaks in detail about his specific art pieces; and social concerns regarding the Vietnamese community in the United States.

OH 2862

Nguyen, Paul C. (b. 1975)

“An Oral History with Paul C. Nguyen”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tran Nguyen

April 7, 2000

Language: Vietnamese/English

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 3 hours

Status: Transcribed: 94 pages

Abstract

An oral history with Paul C. Nguyen, a first generation Vietnamese who immigrated to California under the ODP program (Orderly Departure Program). This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese

population. Specifically, Nguyen's education at Our Lady Queen of Angels High School Seminary, daily schedules of this boarding school, learning to speak English, personal growth during this period, deciding not to become a priest his senior year; post secondary education: University of California, Irvine, joined a Catholic prayer club "Mustard Seeds," discussed activities, changed from biology major to business major to finally transferring to California State University, Fullerton and became a music major; love for music, playing the piano for church service; religious discussion and the importance of providing a Christian model for today's youth.

OH 3068

Nguyen, Phong (b. 1946)

"An Oral History with Phong Nguyen"

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

June 14, 2002 and August 10, 2002

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 6 ¼ hours

Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Phong Nguyen, a traditional Vietnamese musician, professor, winner of the National Heritage Fellow award, and ethnomusicologist. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, this interview gives an account of Nguyen's childhood, being sent to live at a Buddhist temple at age seven where he was educated; family's musical background; his early years of performing at weddings and especially funerals; details an experience at a funeral where gunfire broke; life after 1975; education in France; studying music and the preparation process for his music exams; the importance of teaching and preserving traditional Vietnamese folk music, music as an enduring source of culture and an expression of the spirit of the Vietnamese people (this was important because they had lost their land, but their music could not be destroyed), experience performing, interaction with other musicians, and visiting Vietnam for inspiration.

OH 2839

Nguyen, Robert Nghiem (b. 1929)

"An Oral History with Robert Nghiem Nguyen"

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

March 15 & 22, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: 5 1/2 hours

Ephemeral: Curriculum Vitae, article, newspaper article, presentation for Phi Beta Delta Conference

Status: Session One - Partially transcribed, Session Two - not transcribed

Abstract (Session One)

An oral history with Robert Nghiem Nguyen, first lieutenant in Army-engineer, Civic Construction operator, refugee, communist political prisoner for sixteen years, Division Commander's Assistant, Management of pacification and development programs for two provinces: Quang Ngai and Quang Tin, Chief of Province Phu Bon, Chief of Military Sector Phu Bon, Executive Director, Inspector General, Deputy of Director General of the Ministry for Development of Ethnic Minorities (MDEM) in Vietnam, invited by the Department of States to a two-month tour in the United States, September 1967 to observe and study the ethnic minority problems of the United States, visited and studied the Malaysian aborigines' problems in 1967, visited the political warfare of Taiwanese Army and observed the Taiwanese aborigines people in 1966, Deputy of Chief of Staff, Chief of Office of Montagnard Affairs, and Chief of Fifth Office. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information of the first generation Vietnamese American population. Specifically, Vietnamese language, French influence and occupation of Vietnam, early life in Northern Vietnam, education, military involvement, work as a civic engineer, fall of North Vietnam in 1954, South and North Vietnamese government, Catholic religion, ethnic cleansing in Vietnam, welfare of Montagnards (Mountain people in Vietnam), Montagnards culture, visit of United States regarding ethnic minority problems, history of foreign domination in Vietnam, communist political prisoner and the sixteen years of separation from family, current family condition, education in the United States (Fullerton College and California State University, Fullerton) and work/goal to end racism and inhumanity in the world.

Abstract (Session Two)

Specifically, this interview discussed a poem written about the fall of the North 1954, this poem won an award from the military (this poem is recited in a traditional Vietnamese style in the interview); parental relationships with children, responsibility to each other and conduct; civic duty to country; features of women from different regions of Vietnam; wife's sacrifices, flight to United States; raising eight children by herself, being without her husband for sixteen years, supporting her husband monetarily while he was a political prisoner; cultural significance of betel chewing, wedding rituals connected with betel chewing; early Vietnamese ancestral worship and current day ancestral reverence; recites old poem about betel leaves; and Tet traditions, taboos on Lunar New Year's day.

OH 2778

Nguyen, Quyen Loung Thi

“An Oral History with Quyen Nguyen”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

October 12, 2000
Language: Vietnamese
Project: Vietnamese American Project
Length: 1 ¾ hours

Restriction: Request to change name before made available to public (see agreement form)

Status: Not transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Quyen Nguyen, a Vietnamese refugee (during the 1975 wave). This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, this interview covers the disparities of gender treatment in Vietnam, including male fidelity, female worth and responsibility; French education in Vietnam; life in Guam, working as a volunteer for the American government; first job in the U.S. as flight attendant; adjusting to life in the U.S.; husband, and attending school in Kansas; working in the computer software industry, computer science; raising her children; maintaining a happy home; and the strangeness of returning to Vietnam.

OH 2836

Nguyen, Thuy Thanh

“An Oral History with Thuy Thanh Nguyen”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

December 6, 1999

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 1 hour

Status: Transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Thuy Thanh Nguyen, a Vietnamese refugee and entrepreneur. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project (Vietnamese Photo Project), California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, this interview discusses Thien Nga Deli Food To Go restaurant, business strategies, catering and targeting a Caucasian clientele; responsibility of being a business owner, mother, and wife; daily routine; and conditions of the jails where she was a political prisoner in Vietnam for thirteen years.

OH 2776

Nguyen, Tue Huu (b. 1950)

“An Oral History with Tue Huu Nguyen”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

October 10, 2000

Language: Vietnamese (some English)

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 3 hours

Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Tue Huu Nguyen, a Vietnamese pharmacist. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, education and childhood in Vietnam, the examination process and grade promotion; military service, medical care; briefly mentions the process of fleeing Vietnam in 1975 and coming to New York, observation of New York life, worked as a stock person for a pharmacy; higher education in the United States, obtaining pharmacist degree from St. John; working for McNeal pharmaceutical (maker of Tylenol); fitting into the American work place, obstacles of being first generation, racial tension between whites and Asians; personal and professional satisfaction; and children and raising second generation teenagers.

OH 2849

Nguyen, Van Nap & Khong, Duong Thi

“An Oral History with Van Nap Nguyen & Duong Thi Khong”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

March 31, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: 3 hours

Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Van Nap Nguyen and Duong Thi Khong, Vietnamese refugees residing in San Jose, California. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information on the Vietnamese American population. Specifically, conditions of living in Vietnam prior to 1975 and post 1975, profession and business (seamstress and tailor), adjustment to American way of life, children’s flight to the United States, Buddhist religion: karma, parental/child, husband/wife, and human/human relationships, and Vietnamese heritage and legacy for the future generations.

OH 2837

Ong, Nhu-Ngoc (b. 1977)

“An Oral History with Nhu-Ngoc Ong”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

February 18, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 2 ½ hours

Status: Not transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Nhu-Ngoc Ong, a Vietnamese refugee residing in Orange County. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, this interview discussed immigration to California in 1992; life in communist Vietnam; the ethnic makeup of the local high schools in Orange County; education at California State University, Fullerton (Psychology program), receiving the Presidential scholarship; importance of community service within the Vietnamese community; Vietnamese identity in America; hobbies and affinity towards classical music, preservation of the arts; importance of preserving the Vietnamese language for future generations; Vietnamese assimilation to American culture, and racial relationships in the United States.

OH 2835

Pham, Minh

“An Oral History with Minh Pham”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

December 15, 1999

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: 1 hour

Status: Not transcribed

Abstract

OH 2860

Phong, Ann (b. 1957)

“An Oral History with Ann Phong”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

May 7, 2000

Language: English

Project: Vietnamese American Project
Length: Approximately 2 ½ hours

Status: Transcribed; 101 pages

Abstract

An oral history with Ann Phong, Vietnamese refugee, artist, and California State University, Fullerton part time lecturer. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, this interview gives an account of the conditions of life after the fall of Saigon in 1975, the trouble of getting into college because she was not a communist; going to art college for personal fulfillment; details flight from Vietnam, dangers involved, Thai pirates, women being kidnapped, raped, and sold into prostitution; being caught by the communist, conditions of the boat; life in the United States, problems of assimilation, college education; art as a manifestation of her emotions, trials, tribulations, and social injustices; gender imbalance, constant advocacy of gender equality, art did not adhere to traditional Vietnamese tradition, topics of life and death not dainty flowers that show female roles of quiet submission; critiques the corruption of the communist personnel, not necessarily communist ideology; American consumer culture; and impact of teaching and experiences.

OH 2864

Ta, Tri and Doan, Anh (b. 1973; b. 1974)
“An Oral History with Tri Ta and Anh Doan”
Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen
June 10, 2000
Language: Vietnamese
Project: Vietnamese American Project
Length: Approximately 4 hours

Status: Not transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Tri Ta and Anh Doan (husband and wife), Tri Ta is a poet, short story writer, and playwright, Anh Doan is a poet and a newspaper columnist, both are involved in mobilizing the Vietnamese community through both the visual and the written mediums. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project (Vietnamese Photo Project) California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information on the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, Tri Ta’s portion included opinion and perspectives of Communist Vietnam, mainly in the area of education, their propaganda bolstering Minh Chi Ho (or more commonly referred to as Ho, Chi Minh), communist disregard for traditional Vietnamese teachings that include: morality, respect for one’s family, and how to an ethical human being; details life without a father figure due to his imprisonment; coming to

American in the early 1980s under the High Ranking Officer #4 program; college experience in the U.S.; details different forms of poetry, mechanics, symbolic representation; photography; philosophies of the great thinkers and how it applies to life; religious allusions and examples in poems and reflection of daily life; involvement and community service in the Vietnamese community. Anh Doan's portion covered: education in the United States, learning English in high school, adjusting to the learning style and testing protocols in the U.S., college experience, moving from algebra to calculus; VSA (Vietnamese Student Association) at University California, Irvine; writing a fashion column for a Vietnamese newspaper; poetry, symbolism that represent the value of women and their attributes; and religious teachings for daily life.

OH 2874

Tran, Van Thai (b. 1964)

“An Oral History with Van Thai Tran”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

July 28, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: 1 ½ hours

Status: Transcribed: 27 pages

Abstract

An oral history with Van Thai Tran, a Vietnamese lawyer. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, Tran's undergraduate and graduate education; Project Ngoc at University California, Irvine; work with U.S. Congressman Robert Doran; Medicare fraud lawsuits; private practice; Little Saigon sign off the 22 freeway; involvement with “rock the vote;” helping the refugee population; and his trip to Jerusalem.

OH 2843

Truong, Thanh Nguyen

“An Oral History with Thanh Nguyen Truong”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

August 27, 2000

Language: English

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: 2 hours

Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Dr. Thanh Nguyen Truong, Assistant Professor of Chemistry for University of Utah and Vietnamese refugee. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project (Vietnamese Photo Project), California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, this interview highlights the harsh life Truong had to endure because of his father's illness, responsibility and how the Vietnamese family functions in order to support themselves; at the age of eleven he had to become a street vendor in order to provide food for his family; escaping Vietnam as a minor with other siblings, time at the Thailand refugee camp; being sponsored by a Minnesota dairy farming family; one year high school education in Minnesota, being placed in special education because English as a second language did not exist there in 1980; four years in college: Bachelor of Science in chemistry, minor in: physics, computer science, math, and statistics; four and a half years at the University of Minnesota for a chemistry PhD; talks about research and research methods; and reflection of hard childhood and how it strengthen him and prepared him for hard work.

OH 2861

Vo, Frederic Tho Van (b. 1938)

“An Oral History with Frederic Tho Van Vo”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

April 5, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 3 hours

Status: Not transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Frederic Tho Van Vo, a traditional Vietnamese dress (ao dai) designer. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, Vo's experience of traveling in a hostile environment in Vietnam where he had to be weary of both the Viet Minh and the French; education in Vietnam; leisure time; studying abroad in France starting from the year 1955; studying the French language and cultural observations; life in the French schools; scarcity of work in France; decision of leaving France for America; life in America without papers (he did not realize that he was illegal despite having a driver's license and a social security number); working for an American designer who failed to pay him for six months, took credit for the work, and later stole all his designs when he decided to quit working for her; worked in construction, got paid twenty dollars for twelve hours of work; worked in a bakery for the same wages; recited a few poems in Vietnamese with various themes: love, the fall of north Vietnam in 1954, and flowers (orchids); dress designs and techniques; South Coast Plaza's fashion show; and “Queen's shirt,” one of his coat designs.

OH 2848

Vo, Son Kim

“An Oral History with Son Kim Vo”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

February 25, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 3 hours

Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Son Kim Vo, coordinator of Intercultural Studies at California State University, Fullerton, under aegis of the Asian American Studies program, in the Intercultural Development Center. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview is to gather information regarding the Vietnamese American population. Specifically, her life and education in Vietnam prior 1975, Western influence in Vietnamese education prior to 1975, study abroad Master's degree in Biology from Washington University (1964), PhD from USC (1972) in education, flight from Vietnam after April 30, 1975; lecturer at Coastline Community College, hired and worked for Intercultural Development Center, California State University, Fullerton; established first Vietnamese language class at California University, Fullerton and taught it for free first two years, help create Asian American Studies at California State University, Fullerton, thoughts about significance of being Vietnamese, and hope for the future generations.

OH 2863

Vu, Chat Trong (b. 2863)

“An Oral History with Chat Trong Vu”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 3 hours

Status: Not Transcribed

Abstract

An oral history with Chat Trong Vu (also known as Trong Minh), a newspaper journalist and author. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, this interview covers, Vu's education in Hanoi; newspaper writing in Vietnam; the war in Vietnam; departure story and coming over to the

United States; adjusting and working the U.S.; his stay in France; published books; Vietnam's history, and the women rulers of Vietnam.

OH 2873

Vu, Thiennu (b. 1958)

“An Oral History with Thiennu Vu”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

August 12, 2000

Language: English

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: Approximately 3 ½ hours

Status: Transcribed, 44 pages

Abstract

An oral history with Dr. Thiennu Vu, Assistant Professor at the University of California, San Francisco and attending physician. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, Dr. Vu's educational background in Vietnam, testing and being admitted to one of the top high school in Vietnam, Gia Long; discusses the curriculum choices that were given in the ninth grade: Track A, consisted of a Biological Science emphasis, Track B, mainly dealt with the physical sciences, and Track C included the Humanities; recounts leaving Vietnam on April 23, 1975 with her family through Bank of America (her father's employer in Vietnam), the subsequent journey and experience in the United States, the cultural differences and their first experiences with American food; education in the United States, learning English at Belmont High School, majored in biology and mathematics at Cal Tech, received M.D. and Ph.D. from the University of California, San Francisco; relays duties at San Francisco General Hospital and laboratory duties; and discussed her research on pulmonary alveoli.

OH 2833

Thai, Nha Dac

“An Oral History with Nha Dac Thai”

Interviewed by Trang Dai Tranguyen

January 17, 2000

Language: Vietnamese

Project: Vietnamese American Project

Length: 1 hour

Status: Transcribed (Verbatim in Vietnamese)

Abstract

An oral history with Nha Dac Thai, a Vietnamese photographer. This interview was conducted for the Vietnamese American Project, California State University, Fullerton. The purpose of this interview was to gather information regarding the first generation Vietnamese population. Specifically, the Vietnamese photo industry; award winning photo of a homeless person in Vietnam; education of the arts in Vietnam prior to 1975; photo method and techniques; and the Vietnamese photography organization in the United States.