



**A COUNTRY
STAYS ALIVE
WHEN ITS
CULTURE IS
ALIVE.**

- SACEI Newsletter updates you on the latest news about Vietnamese-America.
- It serves as a link between SACEI members and those who are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

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Editorial Note:

March 5, 2012 in DC: Vietnam Human Rights Day

Although Spring has not come to Washington, DC on March 5, 2012 yet, but the US capital was resplendent in a sea of yellow flags with red stripes. About a thousand Vietnamese Americans carrying yellow flags or wearing yellow with red striped shawls descended on the US capital responding to the White House invitation to meet with them regarding their petition: http://www.sacei07.org/VA1_Visiting-the-White-House.jsp

It all started in December 2011 when an unknown Vietnamese singer named Viet Khang wrote and sang the song Who are You? http://www.sacei07.org/FF2_Viet_Khang.jsp A benign but lyrical song that depicted the misery of the Vietnamese living under the current communist regime turned out to be a hit in Vietnam and abroad where it was translated into English and French.



Vietnamese-American singer Truc Ho, the promoter of the petition and owner of the Vietnamese TV station SBTN spread the song through wave lengths. Viet Khang in the meantime was jailed and kept incommunicado by the Hanoi government at an unknown location. Truc Ho then spearheaded a petition asking the White House not to increase trade with Vietnam while the latter mistreated its own citizens. As more than 130,000 people had signed the Human Rights petition during a 30-day period, White house officials offered to meet with the petitioners: http://www.sacei07.org/VA2_Meeting-Between-the-White-House-Officials-and-the-Viet.jsp

And they came from all the fifty states and from Europe, Canada, and Australia in support for the petition. In the cold March day in Lafayette Square, they waved their yellow flags or proudly wore yellow shawls while waiting for their compatriots who discussed the petition with White House officials. They came, they smiled, they conquered... http://www.sacei07.org/VA3_They-Came.jsp.

The next day, they paid visit to US Senators and Congressmen and to express their concerns for Human rights in Vietnam.

It was indeed a historic moment for never in their 37 years of exile on the US soil had the Vietnamese community manifested such a poise and calm under shifting current events. Never had they shown their leadership and unity in the face of adversity as well as compassion for their compatriots back home.

It was such a historic moment that Truc Ho later declared that March 5, 2012 will be remembered as the Vietnam Human Rights Day.

http://www.sacei07.org/VA4_White-House-Briefing.jsp

It was also fitting that two days later, the Vietnam Human Rights Bill HR 1410 that was drafted in 2011 by Representative Chris Smith and then Representative Joseph Cao was approved by Congress.

http://www.sacei07.org/VA5_Vietnam-Human-Rights-Bill.jsp

South Vietnam as a state may be gone, but the spirit of South Vietnam and its flag are living forever in the hearts and souls of its descendents.

"The battle will be long and hard," predicted Truc Ho, "but eventually Democracy will prevail in Vietnam."

Long live the Yellow Flag.

Long live Democracy in Vietnam.

SACEI Editor

Call for Papers



SACEI plans to revisit the years of the Second Republic not only from the war aspect, but also from the economic, cultural, and historic points of view. The Second Republic faced its most bloody and violent period in 1968 (Tet Mau Than), 1972 (Summer Eastern Offensive) and 1975 (Total Offensive) when Hanoi launched its blatant invasions into South Vietnam, a far cry from a "people's revolution."

While the South Vietnamese struggled and suffered militarily, economically, and socially, in Washington DC the doves fought against the hawks about the conduct of the war and internationally, Moscow, Peking, and Washington poured armaments into the battlefields.

SACEI (Saigon Arts, Culture, & Education Institute)—a non-profit organization—invites you to share your experiences and knowledge about this period with its audience.

Please submit a one-page abstract to sacei007@yahoo.com. The deadline is June 15, 2012.

Web: www.sacei07.org

Nominations for the **2012 SACEI PERSON OF THE YEAR** are also accepted.



www.sacei07.org

Dr. Hung T. Nguyen: University Dean and 2012 Australian of the Year Finalist

Professor Hung T. Nguyen received his BE degree with First Class Honours and University Medal in 1976 and PhD degree in 1980 from the University of Newcastle in Australia.

He is currently Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology; Professor of Electrical Engineering; and Director of the Centre for Health Technologies at UTS.

He has been involved with research in the areas of biomedical engineering, advanced control and artificial intelligence for more than 20 years. He has developed several biomedical devices and systems for diabetes, disability, cardiovascular diseases and breast cancer.

Professor Nguyen was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2002. He was a recipient of UTS Teaching Award in 2000, Engineering Manager of Power Electronics Pty Ltd from 1988 to 1998 and Founding Director of AIMedics Pty Ltd in 2001.

Giving severely disabled people greater independence and control has been the central aim of Professor Hung Nguyen's working life for the past decade. As an award-winning engineer, specializing in the field of medical inventions, Hung is responsible for Aviator, the smart wheelchair technology that has stepped straight out of science fiction.

The Aviator system, ranked third in the top 100 Australian innovations this year by the business and innovation magazine, Australian Anthill, directs and controls the chair's navigation by reading head movements and brainwaves, using two pairs of electrodes embedded in a hat the user wears. With around 200 people a year in Australia sustaining injuries that result in quadriplegia, Hung's research team at the University of Technology are now testing the Aviator system, which is set to revolutionize the lives of paraplegics and quadriplegics, especially those unable to use their hands.

Aviator is just one of a long list of inventions by Hung that have improved the lives of people suffering lifestyle diseases. They include a non-invasive diabetes monitoring system, a 'stealth-based' system for the early detection of breast cancer, and a system for monitoring and preventing driver fatigue.



Professor Hung T. Nguyen

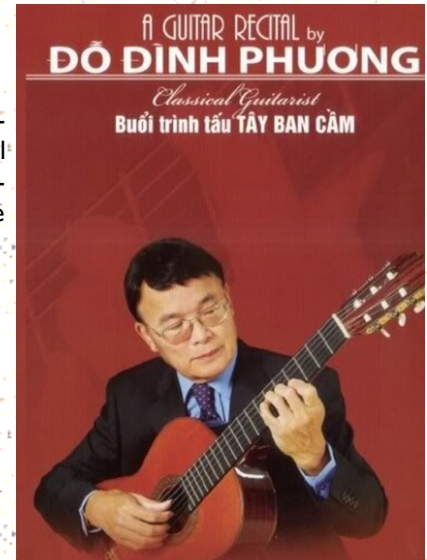
Do Dinh Phuong: Classical Guitarist

Do Dinh Phuong earned the First Diploma in Classical Guitar from the Saigon National Conservatory of Music and Drama. He is credited with introducing traditional Vietnamese Music and classical guitar to his beloved homeland. His innovative arrangements of Vietnamese classics in the guitar domain and romantic signature style have made him a renowned classical guitarist in Vietnam.

- 1960-62 Guitar Instructor at the Hue Music Conservatory, central Vietnam
- 1962-75 Guitar Instructor at the Saigon Music Conservatory, South Vietnam
- 1976 Performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC
- 1976-78 Associate Teacher in Classical Guitar, University of Missouri at Kansas City
- 2006 Recital at the Christian Performed Church in Orange County, CA
- 2007 Recitals in Orange County, San Jose and Washington, DC
- 2008 Recital in Orange County

<http://www.multiupload.com/HLPR8AR8PP>

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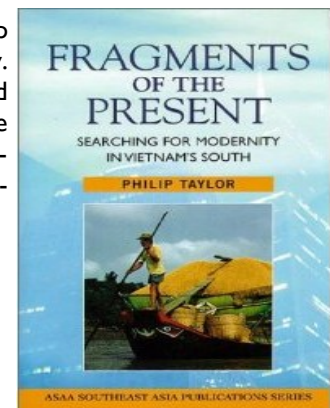


Philip Taylor: Fragments of the Present

A study of the transformation of southern Vietnam during the post-war period. Philip Taylor's ethnographic research in a southern village explored the local view of modernity. Here he shows the differing interpretations of the villagers' view of their own history and the sense of its decline. He presents ideas about colonization, social differentiation, the overlap of society and state, and the dilemmas of a southern village caught in such a culturally and historically huge moment as the attempted imposition of the northern Vietnamese political, economic and social identity after 1975.

Available on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/Fragments-Present-Searching-Modernity-Publications/dp/0824824172/>



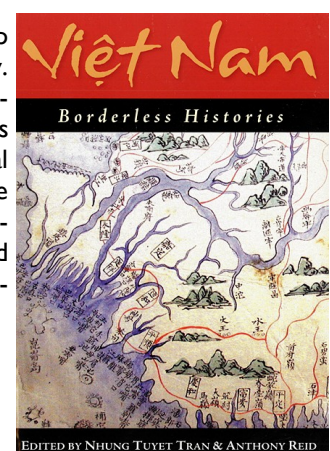
Nhung Tuyet Tran. Viet Nam: Borderless Histories

A study of the transformation of southern Vietnam during the post-war period. Philip Taylor's ethnographic research in a southern village explored the local view of modernity. Here he shows the differing interpretations of the villagers' view of their own history and the sense of its decline. He presents ideas about colonization, social differentiation, the overlap of society and state, and the dilemmas of a southern village caught in such a culturally and historically huge moment as the attempted imposition of the northern Vietnamese political, economic and social identity after 1975.



Available on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/Viet-Nam-Borderless-Histories-Perspectives/dp/0299217744>



Thach Nguyen: Champion of Change

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poQckk2M6kY&feature=youtu.be>



Thach Nguyen on his day of graduation at UCLA

Thach was four when he came to the US in 1992 with his parents who worked at hairdressers in Westminster, CA. He was an A student in middle school but his grades tumbled when his parents went through a divorce. He recovered and went to UCLA where he graduated with a BS in psychology.

A group of UCLA students (Thach Nguyen) won an invitation to the White House to be recognized for their work in helping feed the homeless. Swipes for the Homeless is among five student organizations heading to Washington, D.C., after receiving the most votes online in the nationwide Champions of Change Challenge.

The purpose of the competition, according to President Obama, was to shine a light on student groups that are “helping our country out-innovate, out-educate and out-build the rest of the world.” He said he hoped it would inspire “Americans of all ages to get involved in their communities.”

UCLA students established Swipes for the Homeless in 2009 to help the hungry. The group converts the dollar value of unused residential student meals — “meal swipes” contained on prepaid student debit cards — into food. In 2011, students donated more than 11,500 swipes, which covered the purchase of more than 4,000 pounds of food that was distributed to homeless shelters and homeless individuals living on the streets of Los Angeles. Some of the food also goes to UCLA’s Food Closet, which serves hungry students with

limited financial resources.

Bryan Pezeshki and UCLA alumnus Thach Nguyen have formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization “Swipes for the Homeless.”

<http://today.ucla.edu/portal/ut/PRN-swipes-at-white-house-230595.aspx>



Thach Nguyen (right) at four



At the White House on March 23, 2012