



**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: Memorial Day

Each year, Americans take time to commemorate the untold courage and valor of their soldiers, regardless of color, political orientation, or social status. This year the Pentagon will host a "Welcome Home" ceremony for Vietnam War veterans at the Vietnam Memorial on the Washington DC Mall.... It is about time... [http://www.sacei07.org/VA42\\_Welcome-home.jsp](http://www.sacei07.org/VA42_Welcome-home.jsp)

Since the 1970's, Vietnam veterans have returned home to be treated with scorn and disrespect. No brave soldier deserves disrespect because of one reason or another [http://www.sacei07.org/VW38\\_Recognition-of-Veterans.jsp](http://www.sacei07.org/VW38_Recognition-of-Veterans.jsp)

For the last few years, Vietnamese-Americans have used Memorial Day to commemorate the 58,000 American and the 300,000 South Vietnamese soldiers who have given their short lives to protect their countries. They have come to the black granite wall to pay their respects to these brave soldiers <http://www.sacei07.org/Memorial.jsp> This year is no exception, not only in Washington, DC, but also in other cities like Philadelphia...



The Vietnamese believe that sudden deaths, as in wars or sudden accidents..., cause victims' souls to wander around in search of their final resting places. If not well propitiated, they also could cause harm to their families. The Vietnam War has caused millions of Vietnamese deaths, many of them in South Vietnam where propitiation, mourning of the wandering souls of the defeated soldiers were not allowed. The overseas Vietnamese use this occasion to pray not only for the Americans, but also for these poor souls.

### ANOTHER MILESTONE:

On May 17, 2012, [Sacei07.org](http://Sacei07.org) received its 20,000th visitor. It took our website 30 months to reach its first 10,000th milestone and only 16 months to reach the second 10,000th hit.

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| -July 01, 2008:    | Website inauguration |
| -January 19, 2011: | 10,000th hit         |
| -May 17, 2012 :    | 20,000th hit         |

We sincerely thank our readers for their warm support over the years and will do our best to earn it.

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  | <p><b>FOURTH ANNUAL SACEI CONFERENCE</b><br/> <b>THE SECOND REPUBLIC: 1967-1975</b><br/> <b>August 25, 2012 – McLean, VA</b></p> |  |
|---|--|---|

## 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](mailto:sacei007@yahoo.com). The deadline is June 15, 2012.

Web: [www.sacei07.org](http://www.sacei07.org)

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

## Joseph Cao: US Congressman 2009-2011



Joseph Cao Quang Anh was born in Saigon in 1967. His father was an ARVN lieutenant who was sent to reeducation camp after the fall of Saigon and lingered there for seven years. Cao who escaped with two siblings and an uncle landed in the US in 1975 at the age of eight.

Cao earned a BS in Physics at Baylor and a JD at Loyola University in New Orleans in 2000. He was a Jesuit seminarian for six years but abandoned it. He practiced law in New Orleans and entered politics after witnessing the government response after hurricane Katrina.

In 2009 as a Republican, he defeated the incumbent Jefferson who faced charge of bribery in a largely democratic district. He became the first Vietnamese-American to serve in US Congress where his requested projects totaled \$1.2 billion, approximately three times the average for the other six members of Louisiana's US House delegation.

He supported a bill by a bill by California Democrat Linda Sanchez to express congressional support of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day and received many Committee assignments. He was the lone Republican to vote for the draft Affordable Health Care for America Act. In January 2010, Cao partnered with Democratic Congressman Russ Carnahan of Missouri to create the American Engagement Caucus, to promote a multilateral foreign policy in which the United States works closely with other countries to address global problems. According to a survey, Cao was one of the most liberal Republican in the House.

In his reelection bid, Cao was defeated by Democratic nominee State Representative Cedric Richmond, an African American.

## Pham The Trung: Sculptor & Painter



Born in Long An, South Vietnam in 1955, he attended the Truong Vinh Ky High School and later was trained in Sculpture, Painting and Architecture at the Saigon School of Arts. He escaped by boat and settled in Canada in 1980.

He is a member of the Sculptors Society of Canada and has won numerous awards:

- Award of Merit for the Arts-- Gold Medal, City of Toronto--1997
- Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Award--1998
- Winner of the Vietnamese Commemorative Monument Competition--City of Ottawa--1995
- Merit Medal Award--City of Toronto...

His *Refugees: Mother and Child* Bronze Sculpture has been installed and dedicated in Ottawa, Canada on April 30, 1995. This was the first Monument in the world dedicated to the Vietnamese Boat People on the 20th Anniversary of their departure.

His next project is the planned *South Vietnamese Heroes Memorial Monument* pictured below with statues of the five Vietnamese generals who sacrificed themselves on April 30, 1975.





## Monica Thieu: Jeopardy College Champion

CULVER CITY, CALIF. (Feb. 14, 2012) -- Monica Thieu, an 18-year-old psychology major at the University of North Texas, took first place in the "Jeopardy!" College Championship -- winning \$100,000 and a guaranteed spot in the next Tournament of Champions. Thieu outscored 14 undergraduates from across the country and became the youngest College Championship winner ever since the tournament debuted in 1989.

"I hope my win shows other undergrads that they can do well regardless of experience or age," she said. "Just being in the tournament was completely surreal. I've wanted to be on 'Jeopardy!' for many years and to finally make it on is just unbelievable."

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Thieu is a member of the university's a cappella singing group and involved with the theater club.

Thieu plans to use most of her winnings to pay off college and save the rest of it after a small shopping trip.



## Berkeley Ph. D. wins top sociology prize for dissertation on sex work in Vietnam

By [Public Affairs](#), UC Berkeley | May 9, 2012

<http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/2012/05/09/best-dissertation-award/>



Kimberly Hoang, who earned her sociology Ph.D. at UC Berkeley in 2011, has won the American Sociological Association's "best dissertation" award for her doctoral dissertation on sex work in Vietnam.

The winning entry, *New Economies of Sex and Intimacy in Vietnam*, was based on 15 months of ethnographic research in Ho Chi Minh City, where Hoang worked as a bartender and hostess in four bars that catered to different groups of clients. According to Berkeley sociology professor Raka Ray, who chaired her dissertation committee, Hoang's research "highlights not just the structure and practices of sex work in Vietnam, but demonstrates how it serves as a vital form of currency in Vietnam's political economy."

In her nominating letter, Ray called the dissertation "a stunning piece of work" by "an absolutely fearless and creative thinker," adding that Hoang had done "the sort of fieldwork few others dare."

Hoang, the daughter of immigrant parents who ran an inner-city pool room, graduated *summa cum laude* from UC Santa Barbara in 2005 and earned her master's from Stanford before coming to Berkeley. Now a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality at Rice University, she will join the sociology faculty of Boston College in 2013.

Hoang's award will be presented in August at the ASA's annual meeting in Denver.

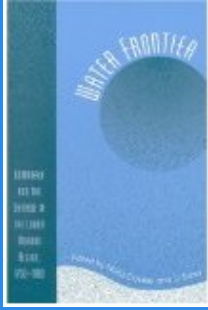
## This Time, We Win: James Robbins

In *This Time We Win*, James S. Robbins at last provides an antidote to the flawed Tet mythology that continues to shape the perceptions of American military conflicts against unconventional enemies and haunt our troops in combat. Indeed, America's enemies recognize and find inspiration in the prevailing Tet narrative.

In his thorough re-examination of the Tet Offensive, Robbins examines the battle in the familiar frameworks of terrorism, war crimes, intelligence failure, troop surges, leadership breakdown, and media bias. The result is an explosion of the conventional wisdom on this infamous battle, one that offers real lessons for today's unconventional wars. Without a clear understanding of these lessons, we will find ourselves reliving the Tet Offensive again and again.



Available on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/This-Time-Win-Revisiting-Offensive/dp/1594032297>



## Water Frontier: Nola Cooke, Li Tana

*Water Frontier* focuses principally on southwest Indochina (from modern southern Vietnam into eastern Cambodia and southwestern Thailand), which it calls the Lower Mekong region. The book's excellent contributors argue that, during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, this area formed a single trading zone woven together by the regular itineraries of thousands of large and small junk traders. This zone in turn formed a regional component of the wider trade networks that linked southern China to all of Southeast Asia. This is the "water frontier" of the title, a sparsely settled coastal and riverine frontier region of mixed ethnicities and often uncertain settlements in which the waterborne trade and commerce of a long string of small ports was essential to local life. This innovative book uses the water frontier concept to reposition old nation-state oriented histories and decenter modern dominant cultures and ethnicities to reveal a different local past.

Available on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/Water-Frontier-Commerce-Chinese-1750-1880/dp/0742530833>

We claim this ground in remembrance  
of the events of September 11, 2001.

To honor the 184 people whose lives were  
lost, their families, and all who sacrifice  
that we may live in freedom.

We will never forget.

Pentagon Memorial (DC)



Air Force Memorial (DC)



9/11 Memorial (NY)