



NEWSLETTER

Saigon Arts Culture & Education Institute

To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese Culture

May 2010 - No.19

A Country stays Alive when its Culture is Alive'

SACEI NEWSLETTER is released the 5th of the month.

It updates you on the latest news about SACEI.

It serves as a LINK between SACEI members and those who are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

Disclaimer. Publication in this newsletter of a book title or a film does not mean endorsement or approval by SACEI.

I. Second Annual SACEI Fall Conference

The FALL of SAIGON

September 25, 2010

Fairfax, VA.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Fall of Saigon, 35 years ago, still resonates loud and clear in our hearts. It was the most significant, traumatic, and dislocating event in the lives of many people, Vietnamese-Americans as well as Americans. One could not think about it without tears in our eyes.

- ❖ What did exactly happen?
- ❖ How did it happen?
- ❖ How did it affect us, Vietnamese abroad as well as at home.
- ❖ What was its significance?

This Conference tries to explore these topics and put the Fall of Saigon in its perspective.

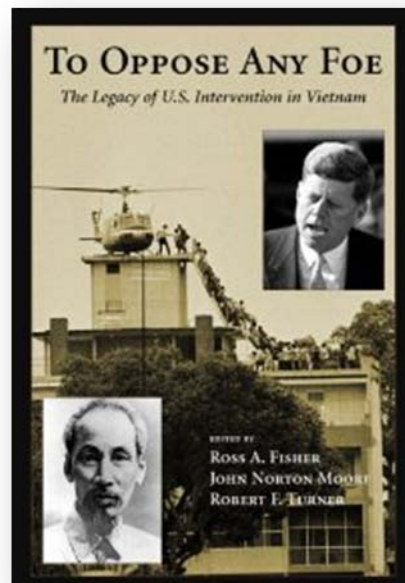
Mail: Please send your abstract to www.sacei007@yahoo.com

II. BOOK

To Oppose Any Foe: The Legacy of U.S. Intervention in Vietnam

[Ross A. Fisher](#) (Editor), [John Norton Moore](#) (Editor), [Robert F. Turner](#) (Editor)

To Oppose Any Foe is a compilation of essays on the historical, legal, and contemporary legacy of the Vietnam War that challenges much of the conventional wisdom surrounding that watershed conflict. The book addresses the aftershocks and consequences of America's ill-fated intervention in Vietnam, from the Cambodian killing fields to nation-building in Somalia to evolving legal thinking on war crimes. The last U.S. helicopter left Saigon over three decades ago, but the Vietnam War still haunts the American memory. It lingers as one of America's most stinging foreign policy failures, prompting numerous attempts to draw lessons from the experience. These essays demonstrate that the idealism underlying the Vietnam War, which was trumpeted by President John F. Kennedy's inaugural pledge to "oppose any foe" of liberty, resonates to this day as America engages in another "long, twilight struggle" against global terrorism in the post-September 11 world.



III. MATHEMATICIAN NGO BAO CHAU

Mathematician Ngo Bao Chau to teach at Chicago University

VietNamNet Bridge – Mathematician Ngo Bao Chau, who was recently praised as making the most important scientific discovery of 2009 by The Time, has agreed to become a lecturer at Chicago University, USA.



According to the Newswise, the Vietnamese mathematician accepted the appointment on January 25. He will become a professor of maths at the American university as of September 1 2010.

"It is clear that he is among the best mathematicians of our age. I have great expectations from this man," said Robert Fefferman, chief of the Physics Faculty of the Chicago University .

Peter Constantin, chief of the Mathematics Faculty at this university, said: "Bao Chau has obtained a breakthrough with his achievements. His work spans the two areas of arithmetic and geometry. "The opportunity to enjoy closer cooperation with my colleagues at the Chicago University played an important role in my decision.

Some of the most basic matters in mathematics are being solved at the Chicago University ," Chau said.

Bao Chau, 37, was praised by the Time magazine for his solving of the "fundamental lemma".

According to the Time Magazine, in 1979 the Canadian-American mathematician Robert Langlands developed an ambitious and revolutionary theory that connected two branches of mathematics called number theory and group theory. The theory captured deep symmetries associated with equations involving whole numbers, laying out what is now known as the Langlands program.

Langlands knew that the task of proving assumptions that were the basis of his theory would be the work of generations. But he was convinced that one stepping stone that needed confirmation was what he dubbed, the "fundamental lemma", would be reasonably straightforward.

He, his collaborators and his students were able to prove the special cases of this fundamental theorem. But proving general case proved more difficult than anticipated - so difficult, in fact, that it took 30 years to finally achieve.

Over the past few years, Prof. Ngo Bao Chau, 37, who currently works at Université Paris-Sud and the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton, formulated an ingenious proof for the fundamental lemma. When it was checked this year and confirmed to be correct, mathematicians around the globe breathed a sigh of relief. Mathematicians' work in this area in the last three decades was predicated on the principle that the fundamental lemma was indeed accurate and would one day be proved.

"It's as if people were working on the far side of the river waiting for someone to build a bridge across," says Peter Sarnak, a number theorist at IAS. "And now all of sudden everyone's work on the other side of the river has been proven."

Ngo Bao Chau twice won gold at the international mathematics Olympiad when he was a high-school student. After taking a Ph.D diploma in France, he was invited to teach at the Université Paris-Sud and the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton. Chau was also the first Vietnamese person to win the Clay mathematics award and is among the youngest professors in Vietnam. He was presented this title at the age of 33.

IV. VU TIEN KINH

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-baby-lift25-2010mar25,0,6250038.story>

Martha Groves



Vu Tien Kinh was a three month old orphan who was airlifted with 218 children from Saigon during the last days of the war. He was malnourished and dehydrated and landed at UCLA medical Center where he was treated by Barry Halpern, a UCLA resident.

Vu was adopted by a family in PA and earned a Bachelor's degree in

Music Education

at Westminster

College in PA

and a Master's

in conducting at

Penn State. This

year, he will began

a doctoral program in

music education and conducting at the University of Minnesota.

While searching for his roots, he came across copies of his old UCLA records. Dr. Halpern had moved to MA where he presently practiced at Northridge Medical

Center. The two arranged for a reunion in front of UCLA Medical Center.



V. CUC GACH Restaurant - by CHRISTINA

I just went to this restaurant in Saigon: Cuc Gach Quan (<http://en.cucgachquan.com/>) in District 1 and found it to be one of the best dining experiences that I've ever had in Vietnam! It feels like the charm of Hanoi perfectly bundled up in this Saigon restaurant.

A "countryside" restaurant. Text after: KTS Tran Binh; Pictures: Ngo Dinh Truc
Published in the magazine Nhà Đẹp Xuân Canh Dần - 02/2010



And behind the restaurant is a beautiful story - the owner/founder is a Viet Kieu from France (about 32 - 35 years old). She came back to Saigon to work and she did not speak any Vietnamese at all. She met an architect/artist who spoke only Vietnamese (no French or English), a man who has never left Vietnam. She says he is "nha que" (and he admits this himself). He does,

however, have a deep appreciation and love for Vietnam and an unbelievable creativity (which you can sense throughout the restaurant which he designed). She learned Vietnamese quickly - in about two months - in order to resume this love affair, which they both claim was "love at first sight". In the beginning phases of their affair, they carried around notebooks so that he could communicate with her through his drawings.

The product of their love is this restaurant which houses his architecture firm in the back. I have some great pictures that I will post later. Not only is the decor magnificent, but the food is possibly the best traditional Vietnamese food I've EVER had in Vietnam. They pride themselves on making healthy, natural food. And, I must say that everything I tried was delicious, fresh and flavorful.

It is one of the few places in Vietnam that I feel really got everything down from the decor to the food, the details are impeccable from the old map of Saigon on the wall, the unique antique decor, the recreation of the grandmother's food stall in the bar area, to the little pond that separates the front area from the back. There are few businesses that I have seen that truly build something from the heart and maintain true to an authentic.

This restaurant does all that...and it really had such an impact on me that I had to write about it...

V. NGUYEN QUY DUC'S HOUSE OUTSIDE OF HANOI

http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2008/11/28/greathomesanddestinations/1130-vietnam_index.html

