

# NEWSLETTER

SAIGON ARTS ,CULTURE, & EDUCATION INSTITUTE

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

*To research, document, and promote Vietnamese Culture*  
*A country stays alive when its culture is alive*

SACEI NEWSLETTER is released the 10th 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 THIRD ANNUAL SACEI CONFERENCE



### THIRD ANNUAL SACEI CONFERENCE

#### ***SOUTH VIETNAM: 1954-1975***

**September 24, 2011 – Fairfax, VA**



#### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

This one-day conference will take a new look at the Republic of Vietnam thirty-six years after the Fall of Saigon.

SACEI plans to revisit the Republic not only from the war aspect, but also from the economic, cultural, and historical points of view. The Republic was the cradle of southern nationalism and embodied the culture of the Mekong delta and the leadership of the bustling and crowded Saigon metropolis. Despite its short life, its achievements were nonetheless plentiful and important.

**SACEI** (Saigon Arts, Culture, & Education Institute)—a non-profit organization—invites you to share your experiences and knowledge with peers and the next generation.

The 2011 Person of the Year will also be announced at the conference.

Please submit your one-page abstract to [sacei007@yahoo.com](mailto:sacei007@yahoo.com).

The deadline is June 15, 2011. Web: [www.sacei07.org](http://www.sacei07.org)

## II

## DR. & MRS. LONG NGUYEN MADE A \$5MILLION GIFT TO GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Dr. Long Nguyen came to the U.S. in the mid-1960s, got a Masters degree in Physics and a Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Virginia. After successful careers at IBM and as Professor at Georgetown University, he founded and became President of Pragmatics in 1985.

Located in McLean, VA, Pragmatics--an Information Technology company --currently has [25 major information technology contracts](http://www.pragmatics.com/about-us) with various defense and civilian agencies: the Departments of the Army, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Justice, State, and Treasury, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The \$5 million-endowment is used toward building a 16,000 square-meter complex at George Mason that will bear the name of Long and Kimmy Nguyen.

<http://www.pragmatics.com/about-us>



## III

## KHOA DO: FILMMAKER

He's a Viet Kieu filmmaker with conscience. Hailing from Australia, and emerging as one of the most exciting new filmmakers from the Vietnamese diaspora, Khoa Do presented "Mother Fish."

Australia 2009

92 min / color video

**Executive Producer:** Matthew Reilly

**Director/Writer/Producer:** Khoa Do

**Director Of Photography:** Peter A. Holland

**Composer:** Alan John

**Editor:** Alison McSkimming Croft

**Production Design:** Khoa Do, Guido Gonzalez, Jason McGoldrick, Shane MacDonald

**Main Cast:** Kathy Nguyen, Sheena Pham, Hieu Phan, Vico Thai, Hien Nguyen



*There's no easy way to tell the experiences of 1.5 million boat people that left Vietnam in years that followed the Fall of Saigon, but Khoa Do, director of *The Finished People* and *Footy Legends*, decided to tell it in one of the most difficult ways possible.*

*Mother Fish* takes place almost entirely in a sewing factory. A small item in the factory triggers the traumatic memories of a lonely seamstress, and instantly the sewing factory is figuratively transformed in convincing fashion to resemble the journey of the woman's aquatic exodus. Some compare this film to the black-box theater style of Lars von Trier's *Dogville*, an apt comparison in subject matter, though *Mother Fish* is much more successful at accomplishing its goals.

#### IV MINH DUC NGUYEN: FILM DIRECTOR



An unexpected friendship between a Vietnamese manicurist and an American car mechanic deepens in modern Los Angeles. This sensual film explores the sense of touch and its emotional impact - how with just a simple touch, we can reveal our deepest longings, give the utmost pleasure to others, and even heal a wounded soul.

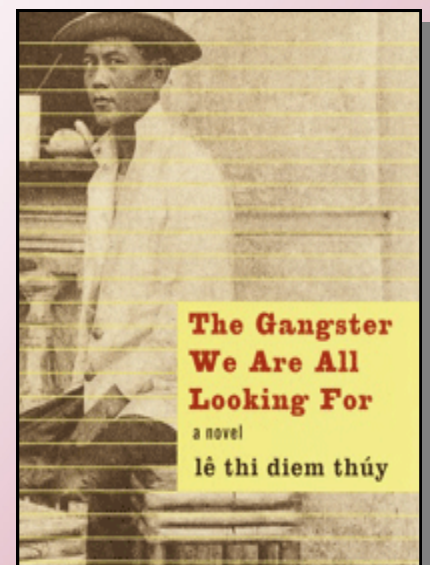
Cast: Porter Lynn, John Ruby, Melinda Bennett, Long Nguyen, Hiep Thi Le and Tony La Thanh.

Written and Directed by Minh Duc Nguyen  
Produced by Mellissa Tong.

#### V LE THI DIEM THUY: THE GANGSTER WE ARE ALL LOOKING FOR

The narrator of Le's poetically spare but psychologically rich debut novel is only six when she and her father and four other Vietnamese men arrive in San Diego, thanks to a generous man who learned of the plight of Vietnamese boat people at church. Sadly, he dies before they arrive, leaving his widow and reluctant son to care for the refugees, an arrangement that ends with the sort of disaster only a lonely and imaginative child can create. Her mother was left behind in the confusion of their dangerous escape, and she also misses her dead older brother.

There is much pain in this exquisite novel, and much beauty.





## VI TO NU JACK FRUIT



Legend has it that a beautiful girl once died broken hearted. Close to her grave grew a tree that bore delicious fruit. Villagers gathered the seeds, planted them, and called the tree "To Nu Jack fruit tree." The To Nu jackfruit flesh has the sweetest and most crunchy taste of all the jackfruit.



The jackfruit tree is native of South and Southeastern Asian tropical countries. It is now found in East Africa and Brazil. It is the largest tree-borne-fruit in the world reaching 80 pounds (36 kg) and 20 inches (50 cm) in diameter.

## VII WINERY IN PHAN RANG, VIETNAM



People are not exactly sure when grape business began in Phan Rang, central Vietnam, but vineyards can be seen three miles outside the city. Grapes certainly like the burning hot weather and the salty atmosphere of central Vietnam. Wine making is really simple in that area and bottles of local wine are sold along highways.

*Thank you for stopping by*