

# Newsletter

**To research, document, and promote Vietnamese culture.**

**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.

*Disclaimer: The Listing in this newsletter of a book title or a film does not mean endorsement or approval by SACEI.*



## EDITORIAL NOTE

Due to a hectic early Summer schedule, we regret not having been able to bring to you our monthly SACEI newsletter. Now that the situation has stabilized, we will return to our normal schedule. The June and July 2011 newsletters will be published in August.

If you feel that you have any important news about Vietnamese-America, please feel free to send it to us at [sacei007@yahoo.com](mailto:sacei007@yahoo.com). If we use it, we will acknowledge you as the author of the news/commentary/book/film review.

Please send any feedback/suggestion about the newsletter to [sacei007@yahoo.com](mailto:sacei007@yahoo.com).

The Management

## I. THIRD ANNUAL SACEI CONFERENCE



### THIRD ANNUAL SACEI CONFERENCE

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

**September 24, 2011 – Fairfax, VA**



#### CALL FOR PAPER

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 the historic point 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. VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN ARMY CAPTAIN JAMES VAN THACH AWARDED BRONZE STAR IN IRAQ

Highlighting Memorial Day and this month as the Official U.S. Asian Pacific American Heritage month, a Vietnamese-American U.S. Army Captain James Van Thach was awarded the Bronze Star in Iraq, for his work as a Military Advisor to the Iraqi Army.

A Law School graduate of Touro Law Centre, he turned down numerous private sector job offers with a very generous salary or a safer career path as an Attorney with the United States Army Judge Advocate General (JAG) to choose a dangerous job as an Infantry Officer in active combat as a Military Advisor in Iraq. Captain James Van Thach further stated, "As a Vietnamese-American, I personally feel in my heart and soul the sacrifices of life, along with the mental and physical scars suffered by both United State and South Vietnamese service members who fought to defend South Vietnam against the Communist aggression of North Vietnam."

Captain Thach was instrumental in advancing two Iraqi Army battalions capability to conduct combined combat operations with United States forces, conduct independent combat operations in the brigade's area of operation, and performed sustaining operations.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2011/5/prweb8434079.htm>



## III. VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEE VINCENT LONG VAN NGUYEN TO BECOME AUSTRALIAN BISHOP



Vietnamese Catholics in Australia are celebrating the news that Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Fr Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv as Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. He will be the first Vietnamese-born and the first Asian bishop in Australia.

Arriving in Australia in 1981, in 1983, Bishop Nguyen became a Conventual Franciscan friar and studied for the priesthood in Melbourne. After his priestly ordination on 30 December 1989, he was sent to Rome for further studies and was awarded a licentiate in Christology and Spirituality from the Pontifical Faculty of St Bonaventure.

"It's a historic event," said Fr Anthony Nguyen Huu Quang from Melbourne. "I think it's a clear sign that the Holy See and the Church in Australia highly appreciate contributions of Vietnamese-born clergy and faithful in this country."

There are more than 160 Vietnamese-born priests living in Australia, in which 35 are working in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Some minister to parishioners from their homelands, but most work in primarily English-speaking parishes.

About 0.8% of the Australian resident population was born in Vietnam; in terms of birthplace, Vietnam has been the fifth-largest source of immigration to Australia, behind the United Kingdom (mainly from England and Scotland), New Zealand, China, and Italy. According to results of the 2006 Census, 159,848 Australian residents declared that they were born in Vietnam. Among them Catholics made up 30.3%.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=18280>

## IV. YOUTH CONFERENCE

SACEI is proud to have collaborated with AASuccess ([www.AASuccess.org](http://www.AASuccess.org)) in organizing the May 14, 2011 Youth Conference in Fairfax, VA.

Asian American Success (AASuccess) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, whose mission is to promote academic excellence, to foster mentorship and partnership between professionals and student members, and to promote "The Act of Giving Back" in the Asian American Community.

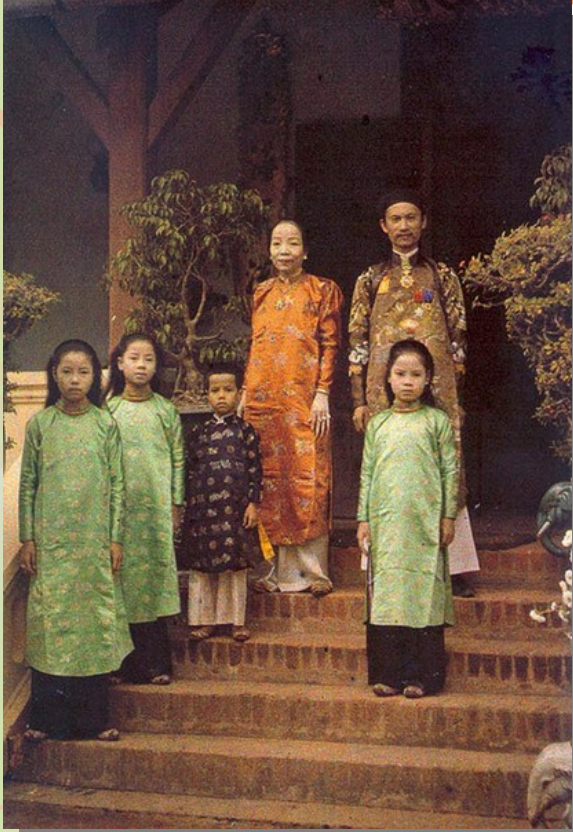
On this occasion, Jim Bruton (SACEI) uses the broad concept of culture to examine conflict and human behavior. His talk is entitled "COMPARING AMERICAN AND VIETNAMESE CULTURES."

Nghia Vo (SACEI) discussed about "THE TWO GENERATIONS," e.g. the dynamics, goals, and accomplishments of the first and second generation Vietnamese-Americans.



## V. VIETNAM PHOTOS

Please log on to [www.flickr.com/photos/...374348279/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/...374348279/) to see these magnificent color pictures of North Vietnam (then Tonkin) and its people. They were taken by Albert Kahn and Robert Moore in 1915 (almost two centuries ago). They will offer you a glimpse of what life was two centuries earlier in North Vietnam. This is history in photos.



1915 Governor of Tonkin (North Vietnam) and his family



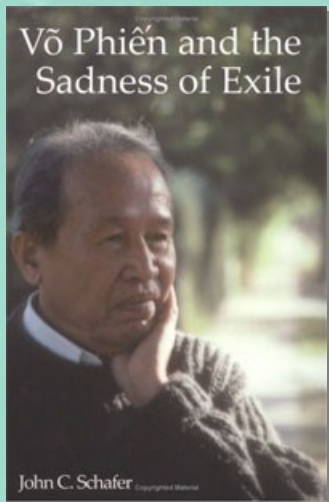
1915 Actor-Actress



1915 Vietnamese Mandarin (high official)



## VI. JOHN SCHAFER . VO PHIENTH AND THE SADNESS OF EXILE



This is a wonderful book which allows us to enter into the secret world of Vietnamese writers -- and thus into the hearts and minds of Vietnamese. Schafer, who writes with clarity rare among academic writers, explains early Vo Phien's books about village life in Vietnam in the 50s and 60s. Then Schafer explores the writings of Vo Phien after he was forced--somewhat reluctantly--to flee Vietnam when the communists took over in 1975. Schafer manages to capture the deep sense of melancholy which colored the writings of Vo Phien over the years. This is a very personal and moving book.

## VII. IEVA ZAKE . ANTI-COMMUNIST MINORITIES IN THE US

This volume takes a completely new look at two controversial topics: American anti-Communism and the Cold War. First, it reveals the little known history of anti-Communism in the US from the point of view of ethnic refugee/émigré groups, and also offers insight into the lives of minority groups that have hitherto not received scholarly attention, often due to their politically controversial position. The book consists of chapters dedicated to particular ethnic groups, as well as an introduction and conclusion. The discussed groups include Latvians, Ukrainians, Albanians, Bulgarians, Slovaks, Vietnamese, Hmong and Cubans, possibly also Hungarians or Romanians. The introduction provides the historical and sociological framework, and the conclusion undertakes a comparative analysis of ethnic anti-Communism and refugee politics.

