

NEWSLETTER

July 2011
Newsletter # 33


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. 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.

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. The deadline is June 15, 2011.

Web: www.sacei07.org

II. JACQUELINE NGUYEN: US DISTRICT COURT JUDGE



Born Hong-Ngoc Thi Nguyen in Da Lat, Vietnam, Nguyen moved to the United States when she was 10, after the fall of the South Vietnamese government in 1975. The daughter of a South Vietnamese army major who had worked closely with U.S. intelligence officials, Nguyen moved with her family first to an army tent at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

Nguyen earned her undergraduate degree in English in 1987 from Occidental College and then a law degree from UCLA School of Law in 1991.

From 1995 until August 2002, Nguyen served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Central District of California. In August 2002, she was appointed by then-California Gov. Gray Davis to be a Superior Court of Los Angeles County judge. Nguyen became the first-ever Vietnamese-American woman ever appointed to the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

On July 31, 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Nguyen to a seat on the United States District Court for the Central District of California. On December 1, 2009, the full United States Senate voted 97-0 to confirm Nguyen as the first Vietnamese American US District Court Judge.

III. MIRANDA DU: FEDERAL JUDGE NOMINEE



Miranda M. Du is an attorney in Reno, Nevada and a current federal judicial nominee for the United States District Court for the District of Nevada.

When Du was 9 years old, her family left their native Vietnam and sought asylum in Malaysia. They spent a year in Malaysian refugee camps before ultimately being granted asylum in the United States.

Du received a Bachelor of Arts from University of California, Davis in 1991 and a Juris Doctor from UC Berkeley Boalt School of Law in 1994

On August 2, 2011, President Barack Obama nominated Du to fill a judicial vacancy on the United States District Court for the District of Nevada.

IV. VIETNAMESE PHO & GOI CUON: ONE OF 50 MOST DELICIOUS FOOD

<http://www.cnn.go.com/explorations/eat/worlds-50-most-delicious-foods-067535?page=0,0>



PHO

PHO: This oft-mispronounced national dish (“fuh” is correct) is just broth, fresh rice noodles, a few herbs and usually chicken or beef. But it’s greater than the sum of its parts --fragrant, tasty and balanced, the polar opposite of the moto rider who brought you to the little café where you find the best stuff.

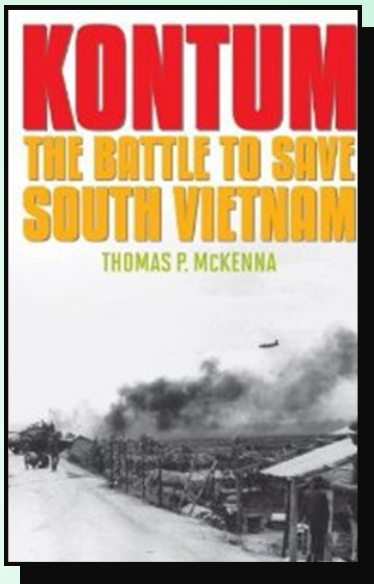
More about Pho: <http://www.sacei07.org/pho.jsp>

GOI CUON: (Summer roll) This snack made from pork, shrimp, herbs, rice vermicelli and other ingredients wrapped in rice paper is served at room temperature. It’s “meat light,” with the flavors of refreshing herbs erupting in your mouth. Dipped in a slightly sweet Vietnamese sauce laced with ground peanuts, it’s wholesome, easy and the very definition of “moreish.”



GOI CUON

V. THOMAS P. MCKENNA. THE BATTLE TO SAVE SOUTH VIETNAM

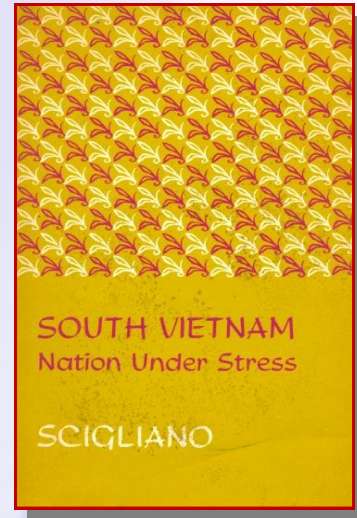


In the spring of 1972, North Vietnam invaded South Vietnam in what became known as the Easter Offensive. Almost all of the American forces had already withdrawn from Vietnam except for a small group of American advisers to the South Vietnamese armed forces. The 23rd ARVN Infantry Division and its American advisers were sent to defend the provincial capital of Kontum in the Central Highlands. They were surrounded and attacked by three enemy divisions with heavy artillery and tanks but, with the help of air power, managed to successfully defend Kontum and prevent South Vietnam from being cut in half and defeated.

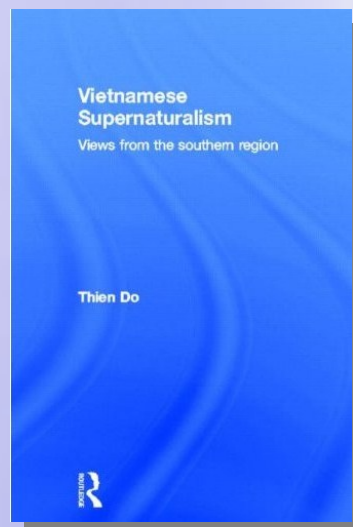
Although much has been written about the Vietnam War, little of it addresses either the Easter Offensive or the Battle of Kontum. In *Kontum: The Battle to Save South Vietnam*, Thomas P. McKenna fills this gap, offering the only offering the only in-depth account available of this violent engagement. McKenna, a U.S. infantry lieutenant colonel assigned as a military adviser to the 23rd Division, participated in the battle of Kontum and combines his personal experiences with years of interviews and research from primary sources to describe the events leading up to the invasion and the battle itself.

VI. ROBERT SCIQLIANO. SOUTH VIETNAM. NATION UNDER STRESS

This book (1978) is the best researched volume yet to appear on the Diem regime and is particularly valuable in its examination of administrative and political obstacles which American advisors found (and themselves sometimes contributed to).... The final chapter on American and Vietnamese relations is a classic case study in the little understood confusions that can occur in crossing cultures and giving foreign aid.



VII. THIEN DO. VIETNAMESE SUPERNATURALISM



The beliefs and practices surrounding the meanings and symbols of the spirit world in Vietnam are explored in detail in this innovative study on popular religion in the country. The author shows an abiding interest in the 'subconscious life' at a grassroots level alongside rational formations of cosmological understanding which effect politics and economics on a national scale. By bringing together oral histories, reports and fiction writing alongside more conventional documented sources, this book reveals an area of history which has been largely neglected.

Thien Do is Visiting Fellow at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australia National University.

