

*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.*

## I. THIRD ANNUAL SACEI CONFERENCE



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

**September 24, 2011 – Fairfax, VA**



**Courtyard Marriott  
Tysons Corner, Virginia  
1960-A Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22102**

**[703/790-0207](tel:7037900207) Fax: [703/584-2146](tel:7035842146)  
[www.CourtyardTysonsCorner.com](http://www.CourtyardTysonsCorner.com)**

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 historic 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.

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

NB. Among this year's program:

- The Caravelle coup d'etat
  - Saigon 54-75: An Unfulfilled Dream
  - Lessons from America's Longest War
  - ARVN
  - Saigon's Generals
  - The Summer of 1973-75
  - Families in South Vietnam
  - South Vietnam's Public Health system
- and many more...

## II. CHIVAN DANG, MD: VICE DEAN OF RESEARCH, JOHN HOPKINS



He is a medical oncologist to dozens of cancer patients, a professor to hundreds of medical students; mentor to scores of students, fellows, and junior faculty; and Vice Dean of Research at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Chi Van Dang, age 56, was born in Saigon as one of 10 children. His father, the late Dr. Dang Van Chieu, was Viet Nam's first neurosurgeon and the Dean of the University of Saigon School of Medicine. When he was twelve years old in 1967, Dr. Dang's parents sent him and his brother, Chuc, to live with an American sponsoring family in Flint, Michigan. The brothers were reunited with their family in 1975, when the entire family immigrated to the U.S. after the end of the war. Since then, he has graduated from prestigious universities with the highest of honors, including the University of Michigan for his undergraduate degree, Georgetown University for his doctoral degree in chemistry, and Johns Hopkins University for his medical degree. It was at Johns Hopkins where Dr. Dang as a young medical intern, met the love of his life, Mary. They married a few years after that.

Through the years, Chi Van Dang has risen through the ranks at Johns Hopkins from being an assistant professor to landing tenure as professor of medicine, oncology, pathology, and cell biology. He is the first recipient of the John Hopkins Family Professorship of Oncology Research.

## III. JEANNIE VIANNEY: 2011 TEXAS' NEXT TOP DESIGNER



Jeannie, a Vietnamese-American, was born and raised in sunny South Florida and relocated in Texas during her high school years. She graduated with a degree in Computer Science from University of Texas at Austin in 2003. Finding that she lacked an artistic outlet as an adult, she started her passionate journey in jewelry design. She has always been drawn to art, crafts, and the acts of hands on creation. Her first jewelry piece can be traced back to a flower necklace constructed of copper wire she created during her

middle school art class.

She launched her first collection in 2005, with online sales and boutiques to quickly follow. Her pieces have been featured in numerous publications such as

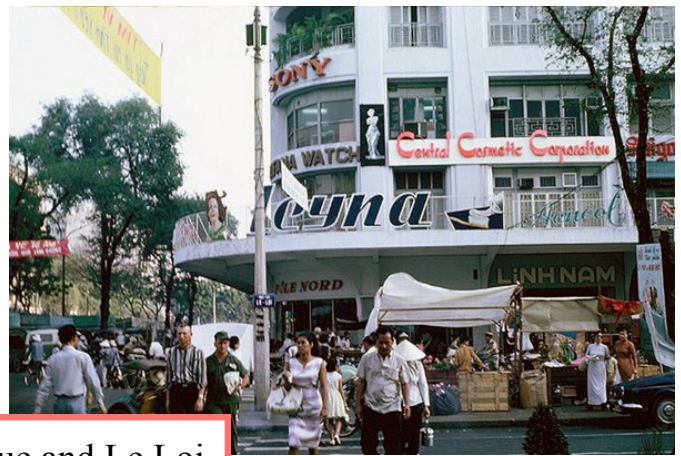
Lucky Magazine, DailyCandy, Washington Post, and many more. She continues to learn new skills to develop her collections and is constantly evolving, like her jewelry. She also has recently won the coveted title of [Texas' Next Top Designer 2011](#).

The statewide competition is held annually in Texas and provides financial reimbursement grant and in-kind support for business development for emerging talent in Texas.

## IV. REMEMBERING 1965 SAIGON

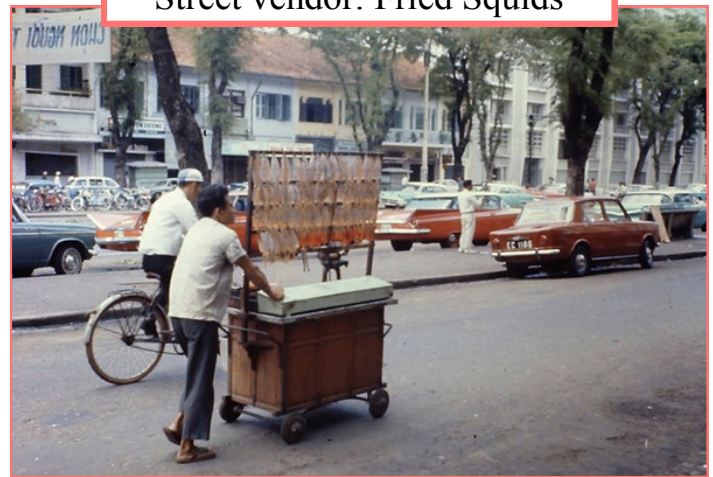


Corner of Nguyen Hue and Le Loi



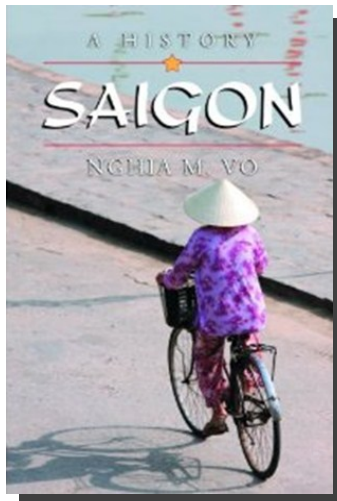
Bo Bia: Chinese Summer roll

Street vendor: Fried Squids



## V. NGHIA VO: SAIGON. A HISTORY

Saigon (since 1976, Ho Chi Minh City) is the largest metropolitan area in modern Vietnam and has long been the country's economic engine. This is the city's complete history, from its humble beginnings as a Khmer village in the swampy Mekong delta to its emergence as a major political, economic and cultural hub. Examined in detail are the city's many transitions through the hands of the Chams, Khmers, Vietnamese, Chinese, French, Japanese, Americans, nationalists and communists, as well as the Saigon-led resistance to collectivization and the city's central role in Vietnam's perestroika-like economic reforms.



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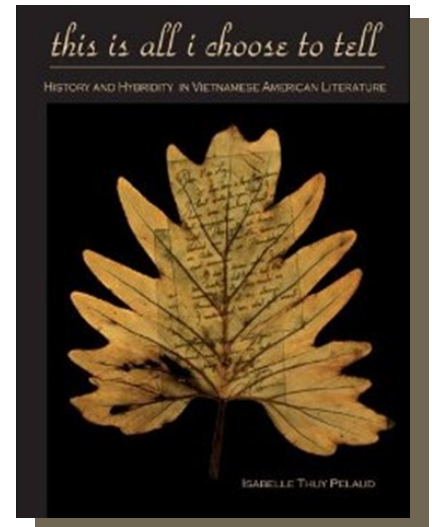
#### Preface

1. The Riverine Trading Post (1698-1777)
  2. Gia Định/Saigon, the Royal Capital (1777-1802)
  3. Saigon under the Warlords (1802-1835)
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  6. Saigon under Bảo Đại (1945-54)
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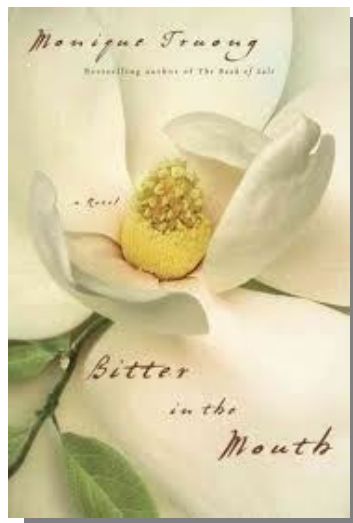
## VI. ISABELLE THUY PELAUD . THIS IS ALL I CHOOSE TO TELL

In the first book-length study of Vietnamese American literature, Isabelle Thuy Pelaud probes the complexities of Vietnamese American identity and politics. She provides an analytical introduction to the literature, showing how generational differences play out in genre and text. In addition, she asks, can the term Vietnamese American be disassociated from representations of the war without erasing its legacy? Pelaud delineates the historical, social, and cultural terrains of the writing as well as the critical receptions and responses to them. She moves beyond the common focus on the Vietnam war to develop an interpretive framework that integrates post-colonialism with the multi-generational refugee, immigrant, and transnational experiences at the center of Vietnamese American narratives.

Her readings of key works, such as Andrew Pham's *Catfish and Mandala* and Lan Cao's *Monkey Bridge* show how trauma, racism, class and gender play a role in shaping the identities of Vietnamese American characters and narrators.



## VII. MONIQUE TRUONG: BITTER IN THE MOUTH (A Novel)



Although *Bitter in the Mouth* may not, ultimately, engage the reader as much as the lyrical *Book of Salt*, critics agreed that Truong's second novel is original, poetic, and compelling in its own right. Complex and layered, it is a coming-of-age tale about the search for identity, family, and human connection. Yet reviewers expressed reservations about the very parts that make the novel unique. While some thought the premise (synesthesia) clever, a few found Linda's dialogue labored, distracting, and self-conscious. Others felt that the revelation of Linda's past is contrived and comes too late in the narrative. Still, wrote the *Miami Herald*, "On a second encounter, even if less remarkable than the first, it's still a rare, refreshing palate--one to savor."

