

Friends of SACEI's

Newsletter

SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE, & EDUCATION INSTITUTE

SEPTEMBER 2011 (#35)

www.sacei07.org

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 PROGRAM

Please join us at the Third Annual SACEI Conference (see program attached) in Fairfax, Virginia.

THIRD ANNUAL SACEI CONFERENCE (2011)

SOUTH VIETNAM (1954 - 1975)

September 24, 2011

COURTYARD MARRIOTT, TYSONS CORNER

1960-A Chain Bridge Road

McLean, VA 22102



0900-0910: NATIONAL ANTHEMS & INTRODUCTION

MODERATOR: DAVID HAINES

0910-0940: THE 1960 CARAVELLE CARNIVAL: ELBRIDGE DURBROW, NGO DINH DIEM, AND THE VIETNAMESE "OPPOSITION"

RONALD FRANKUM, Millersville University

0940-1010: NATION BUILDING UNDER THE NGOS NGHIA M. VO, Sacei

MODERATOR: RONALD FRANKUM

1020-1050: ARVN and the M-16 LEWIS SORLEY, Independent Researcher

1050-1120: A DIRECTORATE OF GENERALS ROBERT A. SILANO, Independent Researcher

1120-1150: MYTHS ABOUT THE FALL GEORGE J. VEITH, Independent Researcher

1200-1230: LUNCH

1230-1330: VIETNAMESE TRADITIONAL MUSIC PHUONG & CHUONG, GIANG THAO & HUYEN LINH, Music by NGUYEN THANH LONG

MODERATOR: ROBERT SILANO

1340-1410: FAMILIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM: FLEXIBILITY IN THE FACE OF TURMOIL DAVID HAINES, George Mason University

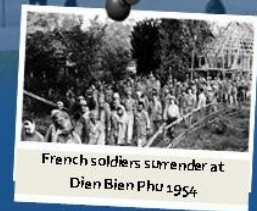
1410-1440 PUBLIC HEALTH ACHIEVEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Bacsy NGUYEN LE HIEU, Petree College, Oklahoma City

MODERATOR: LEWIS SORLEY

1450-1520 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: LESSONS OF THE WAR

1520-1540: OPEN DISCUSSION

1540: THE 2011 SACEI PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD



French soldiers surrender at Dien Bien Phu 1954



The Paris Peace Accords 27 January 1973



SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION INSTITUTE
WWW.SACEI07.ORG

II. FIRST HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: TOM HUYNH



Yerba Buena (YB)--good herb in Spanish--is a public comprehensive four-year high school located in the East San Jose area of San Jose, California, USA with an enrollment of 1,500 and an average class size of 30. The student body is roughly 55% Mexican and 40% Vietnamese-American.

Born, raised and trained in the US, Tom Huynh who was Associate Principal last year became Principal of YB in the 2011-2012 school year.

III. KUSHO TENZIN DRODON

Born in Orange County, CA from a well-to-do family, Donald Pham has always been fascinated by religious matters. He is the nephew of MC Nam Loc and Nha Ca, the editor of Viet Bao newspaper in California. Since monastic study is stringent and could last up to two decades, many students frequently dropped out and never completed the course. This explains why there are only 200 Geshe (basically a spiritual friend) worldwide today.

At a young age, Donald while excelling at school, often followed his mother to the Long Beach pagoda, which is located 90 miles from their home, to listen to Tibetan Buddhist teachings. By eight, he wanted to become a Geshe. The following year, his parents took him to a monastery in India where he stayed as a student for six weeks. Despite all the hardship, he wanted to pursue a monastic life. In 1999 at the age of twelve, he moved to the Tibetan monastery Gaden Sharte in India to study Buddhism under the guidance of Tulku Lati Rinpoche following a recommendation by the Dalai Lama. He thus became the first Vietnamese enrolled at a young age in Buddhist studies in a Tibetan monastery.

At age 21, he graduated as a monk and was given the name of Shakya Bitzu Tenzin Dodron. He is pursuing higher studies today.



IV. MC LEYNA NGUYEN



Born in Dong Ha, Quang Tri, Vietnam in 1969, she escaped abroad with her family in 1975. After graduating with a Communication degree from Webster College at age 22, she worked at various TV stations like KCRA Sacramento then WRDW-TV Augusta. She became well known after covering the Special Olympic Summer Games.

In 1997, she founded a non-profit organization "Love Across The Ocean" to raise funds in the U.S. for underprivileged children in Vietnam. In 2005, she married actor and producer Michael Muriano in a traditional ceremony at Dong Ha, Quang Tri.



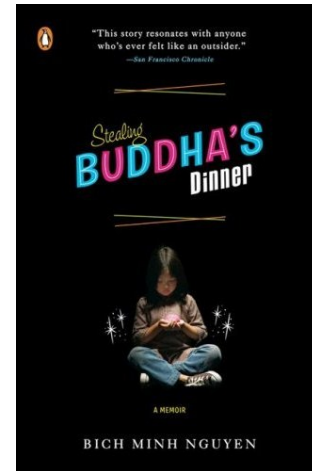
V. TV REPORTER THUY VU



Born in Vietnam in 1975, she moved with her family to the US at an early age. After graduating from UC Berkeley with honors in Rhetoric, she worked for various TV stations like KQED, NPR, KPIX, KTVU-TV before landing a job at CBS news in 2005. Thuy has received numerous awards from both regional and national organizations for her reporting. AsianWeek chose her as the best TV reporter in 2004. She is an Emmy award-winning anchor and reporter for CBS-5 "Eyewitness News" in San Francisco. She currently co-hosts "Eye on the Bay."

VI. BICH MINH NGUYEN: STEALING BUDDHA'S DINNER

In *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, the glossy branded allure of Pringles, Kit Kats, and Toll House Cookies becomes an ingenious metaphor for Nguyen's struggle to become a "real" American, a distinction that brings with it the dream of the perfect school lunch, burgers and Jell-O for dinner, and a visit from the Kool-Aid man. Vivid and viscerally powerful, this remarkable memoir about growing up in the 1980s introduces an original new literary voice and an entirely new spin on the classic assimilation story.



VII. TRAN TRI VU: LOST YEARS: MY 1,632 DAYS IN VIETNAMESE REEDUCATION CAMPS



This is a unique addition to the growing first-person literature on the Vietnam war and its aftermath. While not an anti-Communist diatribe, the picture it paints of the Vietnamese government and its gulag of reeducation camps is hardly a flattering one. But then, prisons in Third World countries are not beach resorts. This document is extraordinary for the mastery of detail. Vu offers an almost day-by-day account of a five-year period, composed, it seems, without benefit of notes or a journal.

VIII. CHOI BUYUNG WOOK: SOUTHERN VIETNAM UNDER THE REIGN OF MINH MANG (1820 - 1841)

This study of nineteenth-century Vietnam focuses on interactions between the Vietnamese king, Minh Mang, and the heterogeneous southern region of the country, which he sought to bring more firmly under state control through a series of policies intended to "Vietnamize" the populace and unite north and south.

