

# Saigon Arts Culture & Education Institute

## Friends of SACEI's

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Newsletter #37

# Newsletter

[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 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. THE 2011 SACEI MAN OF THE YEAR



### **DR. LEWIS SORLEY**

In recognition of your Outstanding Contributions to Vietnamese Arts,  
Culture, and Fight for Human Rights

## Acceptance speech:

I've to tell you that this means a great deal to me . I'm very, very proud of my Vietnamese friends and their families, especially those who've come to America and enriched our culture and society by the way they live their lives here.

My closest Vietnamese friends live in Sugarland, just outside Houston and I've visited there several times. They believe as you do that it's important, not only to make a whole-hearted commitment to their new lives here, but also if you remember and celebrate the culture from whence they came.

My friend's wife has grandchildren who came to visit very often. She told me once that this is how she kept the culture alive.

The kiddies come in and said in English,

"Grandma. May we have a cookie?"

And she said to them in Vietnamese,

"I'm sorry. I do not understand you."

And they said to her in Vietnamese,

"Grandma. May we have a cookie?"

She said to them:

"Cookies, all around."

Thank you very much.

Please read more at: [http://www.sacei07.org/2011\\_SACEI%20Man%20of%20the%20year.pdf](http://www.sacei07.org/2011_SACEI%20Man%20of%20the%20year.pdf)

## II. TUAN ANH PHAM, USMC MAJOR (provided by Bill Laurie)



Tuan Anh Pham was born in 1970 in Dat Do, Phuoc Tuy, South Vietnam from a family of farmers. His great grandfather was killed by the communists, his grandfather was executed by the communists and the severed body thrown on the highway. His father who served in the ARVN Marines was ambushed and killed during a search mission against the communists in Dat Do in 1972 and his uncles were sent to reeducation camps after April 30, 1975.

After 1975, Tuan Pham's mother and her four children were sent to the new economic zone (the civilian equivalent of the army's reeducation camp) of Ba To, province of Xuan Moc. After surviving four years of economic hardship, she escaped with her children from the zone and returned to Ba Ria, Phuoc Tuy. Taking her eldest son with her, she escaped by boat and landed in San Francisco in 1979 without education,

money, and relatives. It was only seven years later in 1986 that she was able to bring her three remaining children, including Tuan Pham, to the U.S.

While his mother was in the U.S., Tuan Pham and his siblings lived with his maternal grandparents. He and his grandfather went fishing for a living. Once in the U.S., he went to school at George W. High in San Francisco where he graduated three years after. He then enrolled into the Marines where he got a BA (International Relations) and an MBA (Financial Management). He is presently a USMC Major serving in the field of Financial Management. His elder brother has also served in the Marines for four years.



### III. FROM TROUBLE MAKER TO CARDIOLOGIST: JAMES NGUYEN, MD

James admits, "When I was in elementary school, I was a big trouble-maker. I would do stuff like change the teacher's instructions on the board. My grades were barely Cs and Ds." But, at 12 years old, James had a problem. His middle school principal would not give him permission to transfer from the seventh grade to Santa Ana College. His father's battle with a massive heart attack changed his life. He decided from then on to become a cardiologist. During his first semester at Santa Ana College, James formed the Pre-Med Club, became a Student Senator, and worked as a math tutor, often tutoring students twice his age. He graduated with honors from Santa Ana College at the age of 14 and transferred to the University of California, Irvine (UCI) as

as a Pre-Med student, where he made the Dean's Honor Roll every quarter of his attendance. In 2000, at a time when (his) friends were graduating high school, he was graduating UCI – with honors.

At 19 years of age, James entered medical school at St. George's University. At 23, when most students are completing their Bachelor's degree, Dr. James Nguyen was beginning his Residency at Orlando Regional Hospital, in Orlando, Florida. at the age of 26, Dr. Nguyen became Chief Resident at the University Medical Center (UMC) Dept. of Internal Medicine in Tucson, Arizona. He is now a Fellow in the UMC Dept. of Cardiology.

James says, "As President John F. Kennedy said, 'We choose to go to the moon...not because it is easy, but because it is hard.' God has blessed me with the talent and knowledge to pursue cardiology. I have to use those gifts.

<http://www.sac.edu/community/foundation/alumni/hallsoffame/inductees/JamesHNguyen.htm>



*Dr. James Nguyen and U.S. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi*

### IV. TANGO ARGENTINA CHAMPION: BRIAN NGUYEN



Brian Nguyen's dance career started as early as age 8 with karaoke videos of the well-known King of Pop, Michael Jackson. For many years he pursued the arts of break dancing and popping in Los Angeles, California where he was born and raised. After being introduced to Argentine Tango, he quickly fell in love and since then has dedicated his time to mastering the seductive art form. As a tango dancer, he has performed in many well-known venues including the Hollywood Bowl, Thousand Oaks Civic Center, Lobero Theatre, Royce Hall, Nokia Theatre and many more.

Brian and Yuliana Basmajyan crossed paths at a milonga in 2007. Together, they travel to Argentina a few times a year to continue their tango education with their maestros. They are the 2010 and 2011 U.S. Tango Champions in Tango Salon, and were Finalists in Tango Mundial 2010, the annual world tango competition held in Buenos Aires.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsCZOKNBsVo&feature=related>

## V. LITTLE SAIGON, VANCOUVER, CANADA



Vancouver council has approved the designation of "Little Saigon" for a stretch of Kingsway between Fraser and Nanaimo streets in Vancouver to reflect the area's Vietnamese influence.

Read more: <http://www.theprovince.com/news/Little+Saigon+district+approved+Vancouver+Kingsway+area/5513646/story.html#ixzz1aEsVjU4x>

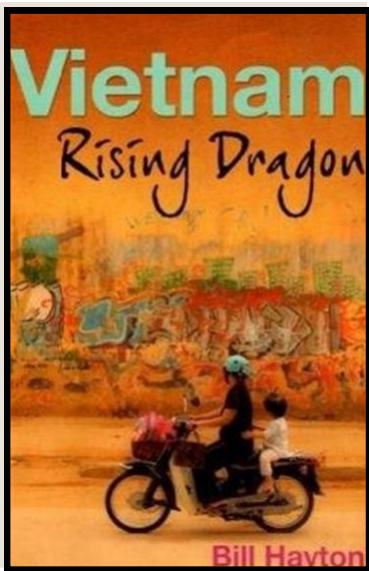


The pleasant aroma of pho noodle soup and spring rolls might tip the average foodie off, but by the end of next year a portion of Vancouver's Kingsway thoroughfare could officially become known as "Little Saigon." Vancouver city council approved a motion today (October 7, 2011) to begin consulting with the business and Vietnamese communities to designate the area of Kingsway between Fraser and Nanaimo Streets a distinct cultural neighborhood, like Chinatown or Little Italy.

Read more: <http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Vancouver+Little+Saigon/5515735/story.html#ixzz1aEruMmVR>



## VI. BILL HAYTON: VIETNAM. RISING DRAGON



A breathtaking period of social change has seen foreign investment bringing capitalism flooding into its nominally communist society, booming cities swallowing up smaller villages, and the lure of modern living tugging at the traditional networks of family and community. Yet beneath these sweeping developments lurks an authoritarian political system that complicates the nation's apparent renaissance. In this engaging work, experienced journalist Bill Hayton looks at the costs of change in Vietnam and questions whether this rising Asian power is really heading toward capitalism and democracy.

