Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: CUONG C. TRAN
Interviewer: Allen Chen
Date: February 27, 2014
Location: West Covina, CA
Sub-Collection: Linda Vo Class Oral Histories, Winter 2014
Length of Interview: 01:09:18

Time Log

0:00:00 Intro to Project
0:00:18 Cuong introduces himself.
0:01:07 Cuong describes where he grows up.
0:01:40 Cuong describes hometown area.
0:02:07 Cuong describes integration with Vietnamese and Chinese.
0:03:25 Cuong describes his childhood.
0:04:06 Cuong describes why he was worried about brother joining army.
0:04:49 Cuong talks about celebrating funerals, birthdays, special occasions and Tet.
0:05:41 Cuong talks about schooling in Vietnam.
0:06:06 Cuong makes comparison between Vietnamese and US education system.
0:06:59 Cuong describes how the different education systems make him feel.
0:07:25 Cuong describes parents and grandparents.
0:09:00 Cuong describes languages used in different settings.
0:09:45 Cuong tells a memorable story from his father.
0:11:08 Cuong talks about jobs family members held in the past.
0:11:36 Cuong talks about education in different generations and his experience.
0:12:54 Cuong talks about how his experience after 9th grade.
0:13:20 Cuong talks about his other relatives in Vietnam.
Cuong talks about why he doesn’t really meet with his family.

Cuong reveals details about sisters and his accident on the boat as a refugee

Cuong describes his feelings on first arriving to refugee camp.

Cuong describes how he found a sponsor.

Cuong describes what it felt like to be in the ocean and in the middle of the shipwreck.

Cuong describes in more detail about his experience in hitting the water.

Cuong describes what he saw in the water.

Cuong describes the aftermath of the shipwreck.

Cuong explains his reasons for coming to the US.

Cuong describes the items he came with arriving to the refugee camp.

Cuong describes his first moments in America.

Cuong describes Los Angeles and Chinatown

Cuong talks about his financial support during his early years in America.

Cuong talks about how his feelings on immigrating to the US.

Cuong describes his experience in learning English.

Cuong describes his experience in finding his first job.

Cuong compares Vietnam and America in terms of daily living.

Cuong talks about his experience with racism and discrimination.

Cuong talks about how he reconnected with old friends from Vietnam.

Cuong talks about how his identity as a Chinese and Vietnamese.

Cuong talks about his culture shock with American basketball.

Cuong talks about his immigration status and citizenship.
0:49:00 Cuong talks about his experience and thoughts about going back to Vietnam.
0:50:00 Break
0:50:42 Cuong talks about old memories that remind him of Vietnam.
0:52:50 Cuong explains his thoughts on what will happen to Vietnamese culture in the future.
0:54:25 Cuong explains his thoughts on the differences between 1st and 2nd generation Vietnamese Americans.
0:55:02 Cuong talks about his opinions in interracial dating.
0:56:22 Cuong talks about his involvement with the Chinese community.
1:00:00 Cuong gives advice on preserving Vietnamese/Chinese Heritage.
1:02:54 Cuong describes his visit to Orange County, and little Saigon.
1:04:29 Cuong gives concluding stories.
1:07:05 Cuong gives his final thoughts on Vietnam and the United States.
1:09:18 End of the interview.