

**Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine**

Narrator: THOMAS QUACH  
Interviewer: Michelle Le Pham  
Date: March 17, 2013  
Location: Huntington Beach, CA  
Sub-collection: Community Interviewers  
Length: 01:53:50

**FIELD NOTES**

The interview was conducted at the home of the narrator, Thomas Quach in Huntington Beach, CA. We were set up in his living room on two large ornate couches decorated with a number of throw pillows. Even though he has been my mentor for quite some time it was the first time I came to his house. I briefly spoke with his wife; she was so warm and welcoming, offering me drinks and cookies.

Present during the interview were myself and the narrator. Several years ago, I had the opportunity to shadow Dr. Quach at his OBGYN clinic in Westminster, since then he has become my mentor. The relationship he and I have is one of mutual respect and admiration on my part.

Conducting the interview with Dr. Quach was like picking up a conversation with an old friend. As a mentor he helped me understand what is necessary to get into medical school. He is definitely someone I would like to emulate when I begin a career as a physician in the distant future. The interview was conducted on two separate days. The first day he and I talked about his early childhood in Vietnam and immigrating to the United States. The second day we started discussing his experiences pursuing his medical school career.

Overall, the interview went as well as I expected it to. I've learned more about my mentor in that interview session than the two months I spent shadowing him at his clinic in Westminster. After I turned off the recorder, Dr. Quach brought out some vacation family photos and a gold piece that was sewn into his pocket before he left the country. The best part was when he pulled out his collection of bubblegum Star Wars cards. He told me that he had forgotten all about it until he went searching for his gold piece. We spent some time on EBay looking for the values of these cards. After all that is said and done, we said our goodbyes and promised to meet again soon.