Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: STEVEN NGUYEN
Interviewer: Rena Minatoya
Date: May 17, 2015
Location: Anaheim, California
Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Course, Spring 2015
Length of Interview: 57: 23: 50

Time Log

00:01:19 Steven Nguyen discusses life growing up in Saigon.
00:05:24 He talks about schooling in Vietnam versus schooling in America.
00:07:26 Speaks English at work, Vietnamese at home.
00:08:04 Talking about relationship with family (parents, wife, kids).
00:15:13 Talking about life during the war while living Saigon, how it affect his family and community, and his family’s involvement in the war.
00:17:19 Reflects on his opinion/interactions with American soldiers during the war.
00:18:06 Discusses experience in reeducation camp.
00:19:53 Recalls memories from the last days before the Fall of Saigon.
00:21:03 Recalls life after the war.
00:21:53 Talks about how he felt leaving Vietnam.
00:23:04 Discusses attitude towards US foreign policy.
00:23:49 Talks about reasons behind leaving Vietnam.
00:25:11 Recalls early experiences in America.
00:26:27 Talks about experience of learning English.
00:27:31 Talks about experience of/journey leaving Saigon.
00:30:03 Talks about settling in America.
00:32:16 Life in America after settling.
00:33:03  How he feels today about his decision to leave Vietnam and come to America.
00:33:37  Recalls his return to Vietnam with his kids back in 2005.
00:35:11  What he misses about Vietnam.
00:36:08  Recalls some of his initial challenges after first coming to America.
00:37:46  He reveals his opinions on the differences between his old (Vietnam) and new (Vietnamese American) community.
00:39:41  Discusses his personal identity as both a Vietnamese and a Vietnamese American.
00:41:41  His love of food.
00:42:44  Gaining citizenship.
00:44:44  How he keeps in touch with current events and people.
00:46:17  Reflects on difference in generations (specifically between his and his kids generation)
00:55:18  Discussion of nicknames and changing his name to Steven.