Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: MAI-PHUONG NGUYEN

Interviewer: Lotusa Chan

Date: March 2nd, 2012

Location: Irvine, California

Sub-Collection: Vietnamese American Experience Winter 2012

FIELD NOTES

The interview was conducted in the Humanities Gateway conference room at the University of California, Irvine. Present during the interview were Narrator, Mai-Phuong Nguyen and interviewer Lotusa Chan. We followed protocol and signed all consent and release forms prior to proceeding with the interview. We had a few technical problems with the recorder but managed to fix them.

Dr. Mai Phuong Nguyen showed up professionally dressed and had a big smile plastered on her face. She wore a black suit, white blouse, burgundy shoes and topped it all off with a floral scarf. She was very excited to start the interview and had many stories to tell. She seemed very comfortable during the interview and was not afraid to speak her mind. Her stories were very descriptive and she was a great story-teller. She told every story with strong emotion and feeling to it. I was definitely able to visualize what she went through. During the whole interview, her eyes sparkled with excitement as she described her life story. Our interview went beyond the maximum time limit and could have been longer if time permitted since she had much more stories to tell. She spoke about all aspects of her life and did not keep anything back.

Upon completion of the interview, I took pictures of Dr. Nguyen outside of Humanities Gateway. I got to see her more fun side as we took the photos and was able to chat with her a little before her departure.