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
Length of Interview: 112 minutes

Time Log

00:00:24  She states her name explains how to say it as well as spells it out.
00:00:48  She speaks about how she was born in Dalat, Vietnam on February 19, 1969 and explains the area.
00:01:29  Explains the meaning of her parent’s name and their characteristics.
00:03:30  Talks about refugee experience.
00:03:57  Talks about day she and her family left Vietnam and describes her memory of the experience
00:04:15  Talks about how her father had access to info because he worked in translation and was able to have connections. She also talks about her admiration for him.
00:05:27  She speaks about her family’s exodus on April 29th 1975 (Fall of Saigon).
00:06:38  Describes her traumatizing experience with the chopper.
00:07:25  Describes her experience in the USS midway.
00:08:19  Talks about the country being lost, first time seeing her father cry and experience in the bunks.
00:09:26  Continues to talk about her admiration for her father.
00:10:38  Talks about room on ship and it’s conditions. She realizes how lucky and fortunate she has been.
00:12:50  Talks about Tony Paul and looking up to him as if he were superman.
00:14: 50  Talks about USS midway again.
00:15: 19  Begins talking about going to Guam and her experiences there.
00:21:20  Talks about sponsorship in America and how proud she is to be a Vietnamese American because of this.
00:22:05  Describes her experience living in Pennsylvania, Indian Town Gap.
00:25: 09  Talks about experience in church and how her family felt like a misfit.
00:25:51  Talks about moving to DC to find a place where her family felt a bigger connection with.
00:26:01  Speaks about parent’s work in DC.
00:27: 55  Talks about living in Virginia and going a the top public school.
00:28:30  Talks about little experiences with racism.
00:30:36  Talks about friends and how they seemed to like each other a little bit more and in a sense, how she felt that she was lacking.
00:31:45  Talks about how her father always had ideas to better their family and how much for a go-getter he is.
00:32:53  Explains her feelings of misfit in terms of clothing.
00:33:42  She talks about how her parents did not want them to assimilate and how she and her siblings were forced into learning piano.
00:35:14  She gives an overview about her life while growing up. Her top grades, not being able to go to prom, going to college early.
00:36:16  She talks about her cousin who attended Johns Hopkins.
00:35:30  Talks about her fear of not getting into med school bc she went to George Mason University.
00:40:30  Talks about cousins.
00:46:40  She provides us with an overview of her experiences in OCC.
00:47:15  Describes her experience joining VSA in OCC.
00:48:54  Talks about first day at UCI and how at home she felt because there were so many Asians. She also talks about how much she liked it and her choices of study.
Talks about Project Ngoc, something that she is very fond of.

She speaks about graduating from Irvine and talks applying to med school.

Talks about her experience of studying abroad in Mexico.

Talks about her experience in a lab at UCI and how she felt that it was one of her first failures.

She speaks about residency and med school at USC as well as her jobs as substitute doctors.

Talks about her break in Guam to help calm her depression and her experiences there working at a practice and such.

Talks about living in Napa and living with her husband, Duc. She also talks about becoming pregnant and wanting her son to live in a place where he will be able to become attached to his culture.

Talks about new life in the OC and her excitement of soon launching Karuna Healthcare Consultants.