Field Notes

The interview was conducted in Dr. Hue Pham’s office, Room 356 of the Norman E. Watson Hall at Orange Coast College. Present during the interview were the narrator, Dr. Hue Pham and the interviewer, Diana Lin.

Dr. Hue Pham was dressed in business casual attire with a blazer over a black top and scarf. Throughout the entire interview, she was very open in sharing about her life stories. I was able to ask all the recommended questions that applied to her. She was very enthusiastic in replying my questions.

After arriving at her office, I set up the recorder and laid out the paperwork while Dr. Hue Pham was finishing up with her work. We followed the protocol and signed all the consent and release forms. I also gave her the Vietnamese versions of the forms as well as a copy of the questions for her to keep and look over as we conducted the interview. I had originally sent her an email with the questions, but had not realized that I had forgotten to attach the actual document with the questions.

The interview was a very relaxed, yet professional experience. Having Dr. Hue Pham being so enthusiastic about sharing her stories and experience made it the interview flow very
well. She was very excited reminiscing through her old memories and we often had quite a few laughs remembering certain events in her life. The beginning was a little shaky as I had paused a few times to have her write down names or places or people, but later on, I just made notes and asked her after the interview instead. We did pause in the middle of the interview at one point for me to make sure that the recorder was still running. Other than that, the interview went by very smoothly.

I did not make an official ending statement at the end of the interview, because she asked me about the next steps for the project, like what I would do now with the interview, so I stopped the tape. Afterwards, she also asked me about my major and what I planned to do in the future. For the next 5-10 minutes, it was mostly just her getting to know a bit more about me. If another interview was to be conducted with Dr. Hue Pham, a good focus would be the reunion with her mother when she finally came to the U.S.