

# Friends

of The Vietnam Center

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MAY 1998 • VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2

## VIETNAM SCHOLARS HOPE RELATIONS IMPROVE

by Lance Fleming, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal

In the 20-plus years since the war in Vietnam ended, relations between the United States and Vietnam have improved to the point where the two countries have exchanged embassies and diplomats.

Retired Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt believes one of the reasons for the improving relations is the dialogue the two countries have established. Part of that dialogue, he said, can be attributed to Texas Tech's Vietnam Center and the work it is doing in bridging the gap of understanding between the two countries.

Zumwalt, a member of the board of directors for the Vietnam Center, said Friday at the first day of the Vietnam in Asia symposium that communication is the key.

"I don't think there's any question that the Vietnam Center is doing great things to help relations," said Zumwalt, former chief of U.S. naval operations. "If you just look at this symposium, you can see we've gone from a situation where the Vietnamese government wasn't letting any of its people

come to this to today where we have several Vietnamese scholars speaking."

"I think that shows that the Vietnamese government realizes that we're trying to get the point of view from all sides of that war:



Admiral Zumwalt discusses Vietnam with Texas Tech undergraduate students Isaac Dowlen (left) and Curtis Peoples.

the Americans, the Vietnamese, even the protesters," Zumwalt said. "We want an accurate and fair record from all sides."

"And because of that," Zumwalt said, "Texas Tech will someday become the global research center on the Vietnam War."

"I believe that because of the great

interest in this project displayed by Chancellor (John) Montford and President (Donald) Haragan, we'll see increasing cooperation between Vietnam and Tech as we get to know each other better," he said.

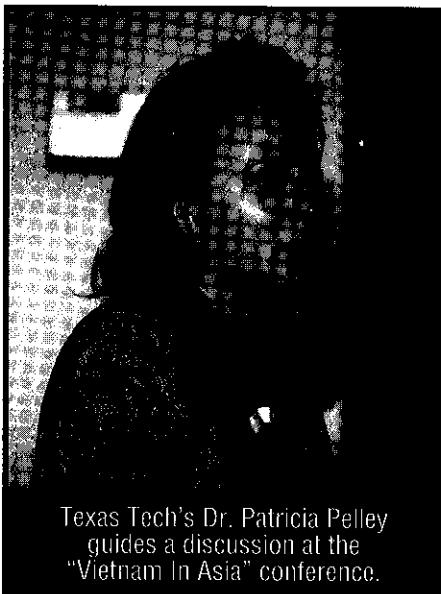
"It's really impossible to judge all the benefits that will eventually come from the Vietnam Center," Zumwalt said. "All those Vietnam veterans will one day come to see this as the place to turn over their diaries, journals and official documents for study. We'll become the global center of excellence, not only on the war, but on Vietnam itself."

And when that happens, Zumwalt said it will also help relations between the nations.

"Even though we've restored diplomatic relations, I think the Vietnamese still remain somewhat suspicious of us," he said. "But they'll quickly realize that no country forgives its enemies faster than the United States. They only have to look at Japan, Germany and Italy to realize that. They'll see that they'll only be better by a friendship with the U.S."

## Vietnam Center to Host Conference for High School Teachers

As this newsletter goes to press, the Vietnam Center is making final arrangements for its conference for high school teachers, which will open with a welcoming reception on the evening of Thursday, June 11, 1998. The conference itself begins on the following morning at Texas Tech's International Cultural Center, and includes presentations by a wide range of academics who have specialized in the techniques of teaching about the Vietnam war, as well as a number of high school teachers who have won awards for their teaching of the war. The keynote speaker for the conference will be Colonel Roger Donlon, USA (Ret), Executive Director of the Westmoreland Scholars Foundation, and this nation's first Vietnam recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. We urge those interested in attending to register early, and we note particularly that seating for the conference banquet will be limited and requires advance registration.



Texas Tech's Dr. Patricia Pelley guides a discussion at the "Vietnam In Asia" conference.

## April Conference Includes Participation by Vietnamese Scholars

For the past three years, with funding graciously provided by local Texas Tech supporter Mr. W. B. "dub" Rushing, the Vietnam Center has invited active participation in its conference/symposium program by veterans and scholars from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. We were unsuccessful in our first two approaches; however, in April of this year, two scholars from Vietnam National University (VNU), Hanoi and two from VNU, Ho Chi Minh City, attended and presented papers.

Texas Tech was particularly pleased to host this visit and to afford the Vietnamese an opportunity to judge the nature of our Vietnam project.

Based upon this original interaction, we anticipate a gradual development of exchange programs with Vietnamese institutions of higher learning which, ultimately, will benefit students of both countries.

Speaking on this topic, Texas Tech President Donald R. Haragan noted, "We're trying to develop an exchange program for some students, mostly history students, to have an opportunity to be in Vietnam for at least a portion of the time."

Further, Haragan said, "We're continuing to develop the collection and establish endowments. We hope that it will attract scholars from all over the world and provide some assistance to students who are utilizing the archive."

## New Zealand's "Parade '98"

In ceremonies slated for May 29th in Wellington, New Zealand, that nation will formally recognize its veterans of service in Vietnam. Vietnam Center Advisory Board President Phil Price and Director Jim Reckner will represent the Vietnam Center at these ceremonies. At the same time, a collection of materials held in the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech will be on display in New Zealand's new NZ\$330 million national museum, *Te Papa*.

The members of the Vietnam Center Advisory Board join with all veterans of service in Vietnam in offering our Kiwi comrades in arms a sincere "Well done."

## Vietnam Center to Celebrate Tenth Anniversary

The Vietnam Center was established by the Board of Regents of Texas Tech University in 1989. The Third Triennial Vietnam Symposium, therefore, will mark the organization's tenth anniversary.

To recognize that achievement, we have organized a visit of the Moving Vietnam Wall to Texas Tech to coincide with the symposium. Further, the Center has organized a special event on the final evening of the symposium.

Symposium participants will be invited to spend an evening at the V-8 Ranch, in the canyons east of Lubbock, where the U.S. 4th Cavalry Regiment (Memorial) will perform maneuvers for their entertainment. A mariachi musical group, Mexican folkloric dancers, and an excellent cowboy band will provide music and entertainment while symposium participants enjoy an excellent West Texas barbecue dinner in an authentic setting.

## VIETNAM ARCHIVE PUBLISHES GUIDE, ESTABLISHES HOME PAGE

The Vietnam Archive has published a comprehensive guide to its holdings. This guide lists all of the archive's resources and provides descriptive notes to help guide researchers wishing to use the collections. This sixty page guide is available upon request from The Vietnam Center. It is our intention to update the guide annually and have the new editions available for circulation at The Vietnam Center's annual conference in April of each year.

The Vietnam Archive also has developed its own web site at: <http://www.lib.ttu.edu/vietnam>. This site provides information about the archive, and contains more detailed finding aids for collections than appear in the published guide. The finding aids section will be continually updated and expanded as the archive continues work on its aids.

Our goal, pending funding, is to expand this web site into a Virtual Vietnam Archive enabling researchers direct access to the archive's documents online.

## NEWS FROM THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE

This year the Vietnam Archive has focused on collection development, improving access, and outreach. Essentially, the archive has sought to pursue high quality materials for the archive to fill gaps in our holdings; to make it easier for researchers to use our collections; and to increase our visibility among potential users of the archive. Thus far we have made good progress on all of these.

As for access, the archive has expanded its staff. When long-time research assistants Bill Miller and Scott Mraz departed, the archive received permission to expand its staff. It now consists of two professional archivists, Jim Ginther and Ron Frankum, four research assistants, Juan Riera, Chris Heniemeier, Lief Pierson, and Jeff Stayton, and one student assistant, the very able Curtis Peoples. This staff expansion has caused an increase in the rate of processing collection materials, and also

has helped the archive more effectively to handle the growing number of requests from researchers. Among the projects the Archive has undertaken with the new staff are a project to produce a comprehensive English guide to our Vietnamese language Viet Cong documents; the processing of our resources on Vietnam during the war; and the cataloging of our 1:50,000 AMS map series covering North and South Vietnam and parts of Laos and Cambodia during the war.

As for recent acquisitions, the archive has partially filled our gap in the early period of American involvement by acquiring the Basil Rausch Collection. Rausch, an FDR scholar, was interested in Roosevelt's policies regarding colonies in the immediate post-war period. His papers focus on the impact of those policies on Vietnam during the final months of World War II and immediately after.

The Peter Dunn collection (one box) contains records of the British Foreign Office relating to the British occupation of South Vietnam immediately after World War II.

### FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM CENTER MEMBERSHIP

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Please make check payable to the Texas Tech Foundation, Inc., Attn: The Vietnam Center. Contributions to The Vietnam Center are tax deductible as allowed by law. For additional information regarding membership or to donate materials to the Vietnam Archive, please call The Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3742 or 742-8663. Mail this form with your check to:

The Vietnam Center  
Texas Tech University  
Box 41045  
Lubbock, Texas 79409-1045

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# CALL FOR PAPERS

## THIRD TRIENNIAL VIETNAM SYMPOSIUM

APRIL 15-17, 1999

**L**he Vietnam Center requests proposals for papers to be presented at its Third Triennial Vietnam Symposium, to be held in Lubbock, April 15-17, 1999.

Topics for papers can include any topic relating to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, or the involvement of the US or any other nations in the Vietnam War. Papers representing all points of view are welcome. Time period for papers may include pre-war Indochina, aftermath of the war, veterans' topics, POW/MIA, or any other relevant topic. Papers relating to Vietnamese,

Laotian, Cambodian history, culture and language are also encouraged.

It is The Vietnam Center's established policy to encourage active participation by graduate students; proposals by them will receive favorable consideration.

Individuals interested in presenting papers are encouraged to submit a one page outline proposal to Dr. James R. Reckner at The Vietnam Center.

## ADMIRAL ZUMWALT RECEIVES THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

EXCERPT FROM FAYETTEVILLE, NC, NEWS ARTICLE BY MATT STEARNS

**R**etired Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt says he wasn't alone when he bounded to the dais Thursday January 15, 1998 to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton in the White House.

He says the spirit of his son, the late Fayetteville lawyer Elmo R. Zumwalt III, was with him.

"We definitely felt his presence in the room," Zumwalt said after the ceremony. His son's 23-year-old daughter attended the ceremony with Zumwalt.

Clinton awarded the Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor, to Zumwalt and 14 other Americans.

Zumwalt, 77, was honored for two reasons.

### Distinguished Career

The first was his naval career. He served in three wars and led the modernization of the Navy during the 1970s, when he served as the youngest chief of naval operations in U.S. history. His proudest achievements were "the changes we made to ensure that there was both racial and gender integration to make the Navy, 200 years too late, representative of our nation," Zumwalt said.

Clinton called Zumwalt "one of the greatest models of integrity, leadership and genuine humanity our nation has ever produced."

His focus on improving the lives of sailors made him "the Navy's most popular leaders since World War II," Clinton said.

But that is only part of Zumwalt's story.

"More than most Americans who have served our country with distinction, Admiral Zumwalt paid a deeply personal price for his leadership," Clinton said.

That price was what led to the second reason Zumwalt

was honored Thursday.

While serving as the commander of naval forces during the Vietnam War, Zumwalt authorized the use of the defoliant Agent Orange.

His son, Elmo III, was a junior naval officer in Vietnam who died in 1988 of cancer linked to his exposure to Agent Orange.

"I very much consider my son a casualty of the war," Zumwalt said. "He, and others like him, were killed in Vietnam but didn't find out until later."

The admiral responded to his son's illness and death by devoting his life to helping veterans suffering from war-related ailments. He started the country's first national program for bone marrow donations and today serves on seven charitable boards. "He never stopped fighting for the interests, the rights and the dignity of those soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines and their families," Clinton said.

Zumwalt said his work on behalf of veterans was "so much better than bricks and mortar as a way of honoring my son's memory."

The Presidential Medal of Freedom was established by President Kennedy in 1963 and is awarded by the president to people who have made contributions to the security, national or cultural interests of the United States.

[The Vietnam Center is very honored to have enjoyed Admiral Zumwalt's strong support as "Chairman of the Board" since 1989. We join the Admiral's many friends and admirers in saying that this special recognition was well and truly deserved. JR]



# CONFERENCE FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

## 12 - 13 JUNE 1998

(PROGRAM AS OF April 29, 1998 - Subject to Change)

### Thursday, June 11, 1998

7:00 p.m. Welcoming Reception in the Rotunda, Special Collections Library

### Friday, June 12, 1998

8:00 a.m. Opening Remarks: James R. Reckner, The Vietnam Center

8:15 a.m. Session 1: "Vietnam's Political Culture: Basic Elements for High School Students," Douglas Pike, The Vietnam Center

9:15 a.m. Session 2: "A Common Sorrow: Teaching the American Vietnamese War," David Berman, University of Pittsburgh

10:30 a.m. Session 3: "The Union High School Program," Paul Davis, Union H.S., Union, SC, and Joe Dunn, Converse College, Spartanburg, SC

Noon Lunch. Luncheon Speaker: Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1:15 p.m. Session 4: "Using the World Wide Web in Courses Addressing the Vietnam War," Marc J. Gilbert, North Georgia College

3:00 p.m. Session 5A: "Teaching the Air War" Dr. John Guilmartin, Ohio State University

3:00 p.m. Session 5B: Optional Work Session on Computers in International Cultural Center's Computer Library. Marc J. Gilbert, North Georgia College

7:00 p.m. Reception in International Cultural Center

8:00 p.m. Banquet in International Cultural Center

8:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker: Colonel Roger Donlon, USA (Ret), Executive Director, Westmoreland Scholars Foundation

### Saturday, June 13, 1998

8:00 a.m. Session 6: "A Critical Skills Approach to Teaching: Using Documents and Oral History to Teach the History of the Vietnam Conflict," Steve Potts, Hibbing Community College & Mankato State University, MN

10:15 a.m. Session 7: "Recent Workshop Experience," Jane Hamilton-Merritt, Independent Scholar

Noon Lunch. Luncheon Speaker: To Be Announced

1:15 p.m. Session 8: "To Teach a Nation: Implementing the Vietnam Curriculum in America," Bob Matthews, SAS Institute, Lindy Poling, North Carolina High School Social Studies Teacher of the Year, Mike Lynch, and Joe Harsch, North Carolina Vietnam Veterans Institute

3:15 p.m. Session 9: "Teaching Military Aspects of the Vietnam War," Earl H. Tilford, Strategic Studies Institute, US Army War College

8:00 p.m. West Texas barbecue dinner

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### 1998 Vietnam Conference/Workshop for High School Teachers

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Registration: \$40.00 Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Banquet: \$25.00 Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check or Money Order enclosed for: Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make payable to Texas Tech Foundation, Inc. Attn: Vietnam Center • Mail to: Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409-1045



## TEXAS TECH CREATES NEW HISTORY POSITION

The History Department at Texas Tech has voted to create a new tenure-track position in US military/diplomatic history, post-1945. Following is the official advertisement:

### US MILITARY/DIPLOMATIC, POST-1945

In the History Department, a tenure-track assistant professor in US military/diplomatic history since 1945. Ability to teach graduate and upper level courses in US military and diplomatic history. Successful applicant will be required to teach two semester survey of US military affairs. Ph.D. required. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and samples of scholarly writings by November 15, 1998, to Dr. James R. Reckner, The Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-1045. Texas Tech University is a state, multi-purpose university of 25,000 students in a metropolitan area of 200,000. Texas Tech University encourages Vietnam era veterans, people of color, women, and persons with disabilities to apply. AA/EOE.



Professor Keith Taylor of Cornell University presented a paper on "The Rise of Saigon," "Vietnam in Asia" conference.

## VIETNAM CONTEMPORARY EVENTS

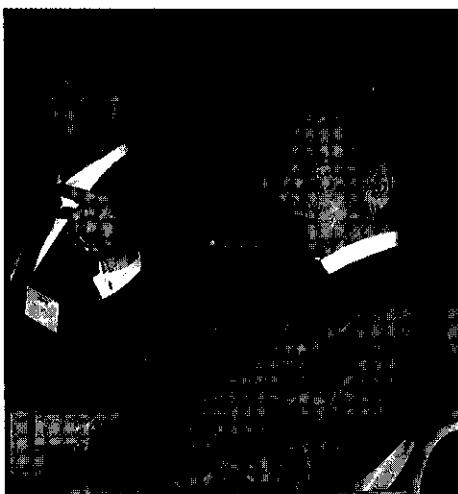
With the arrival of *Indochina Chronology* at Texas Tech has come an additional research aid. In support of this quarterly journal, Douglas Pike daily gathers detailed information about day-to-day events in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, and events which directly or indirectly influence the United States' relations with them. Additionally, our "Vietnam Contemporary Events" file includes extensive economic data and biographical information about those individuals shaping developments in

Indochina, as well as bibliographic information and news concerning the field of study.

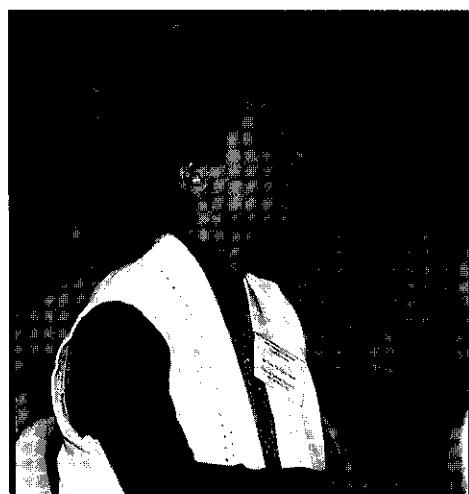
This information is of interest to researchers, academics, and also to businessmen involved with Indochina. These files are maintained in The Vietnam Center's office for the current calendar year; previous years are housed in The Vietnam Archive. A printed guide to the files is available from The Vietnam Center office.



As always, good meals and comradeship are a central feature of The Vietnam Center's Conferences.



Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt makes a point during "Vietnam in Asia" Conference. Texas Tech doctoral candidate Stephen F. Maxner in background.



Ms. Tran Thi Thanh Thanh of Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City listens to a presentation, "Vietnam in Asia" Conference.

## THESES/DISSERTATIONS

**I**n April, Texas Tech history students completed two dissertations and two master's theses relating to Vietnam. Many who have attended past conferences at Texas Tech will remember Les Cullen and Blake Dunnnavent. Dr. Cullen successfully defended his dissertation, "Brown Water Admiral: Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., and United States Naval Forces, Vietnam, 1868-1970." Dr. Dunnnavent successfully defended his dissertation, "Muddy Waters: A History of the United States Navy in Riverine Warfare and the Emergence of a Tactical Doctrine, 1775-1989." Blake is now an assistant professor at Lubbock Christian University; Les will be a visiting assistant professor at

Texas Tech for the next year. Captain Dave Toczek completed a master's thesis entitled, "They Did Everything but Learn from It: The Battle of Ap Bac, 1963." Dave is headed to the History Department at West Point, where he will teach for the next three years. Chris Suhré completed a thesis on the Marine Corps' CAP program in Vietnam, entitled, "The United States Marine Corps' Counterinsurgency Effort in the Vietnam War." Chris is now employed in the Naval Investigative Service. Congratulations to all of these students and two other graduate students who completed theses in military history not related to Vietnam.

## PRESERVING THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE STORY

**A**s part of our continuing effort to preserve the record of all aspects of the Vietnam War, we at the Vietnam Center are increasingly concerned that little is being done to preserve the record of the struggle of the South Vietnamese people during the war. While we find it easy to acquire publications from Hanoi that outline their interpretation of events, such is not the case for the Saigon point of view.

Because of this, we are particularly keen to encourage donations of books, articles, newspapers and other materials from South Vietnam, 1945-1975, for permanent preservation. We particularly encourage members of the *Viet kieu* community to consider this problem and how it might be resolved. Without a concerted effort to gather and preserve materials related to South Vietnam, including memoirs of South Vietnamese participants, correspondence, and any records that might have survived, there will be little left for future researchers anxious to obtain a balanced understanding of the war.

Any Vietnamese-Americans wishing to assist us with this effort to preserve the South Vietnamese record, or willing to make donations of relevant materials, are urged to contact Mr. Khanh Le at The Vietnam Center.

## VIETNAM ART EXHIBIT

**T**he Vietnam Center and International Cultural Center at Texas Tech will host an exhibition of the art of Vietnam Veteran Barry Brown during the June 1998 conference. Entitled, "Passionate Warriors," the exhibition is a collection of works in various media which reflect some of Mr. Brown's "searing memories" of the Vietnam War. Most of the paintings were created after Mr. Brown's return to Vietnam in 1993. The conference's pre-banquet reception will double as the opening reception for this exhibition.

Also scheduled for display during the June conference is a collection of photographs by Vietnam vet Mr. Ted Englemann of Boulder, Colorado. Details of this exhibition have not been finalized at time of printing this newsletter.

## ARCHIVES CONFERENCE CANCELED

The conference for archivists originally planned for October 1998 has been canceled, due to competing archival conferences near the time of the conference The Vietnam Center/Archive had selected. In its place, we encourage archivists to organize/propose panels for presentation at the 3rd Triennial Vietnam Symposium in April 1999.



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## Images of the Tet Offensive, 1968.



FROM THE DOUGLASS PIKE COLLECTION, THE VIETNAM ARCHIVE.

