



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Vietnam Center and Archive

# FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM CENTER

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## Vietnam Center and Archive Celebrate 20th Anniversary with Gala Event

**Stephen F. Maxner, Ph.D.**

Director

The Vietnam Center and Archive

On May 28, 2009, the Vietnam Center and Archive hosted our 20th Anniversary Ball at the Frazier Alumni Pavilion at Texas Tech University. By all accounts, the evening was a beautiful success as we celebrated two decades of collecting and preserving the history of the United States experience in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. The Vietnam Center and Archive were very fortunate to have nearly 200 friends and supporters join us for the evening. This included wonderful representation from our university to include Chancellor Kent Hance and President Guy Bailey. In addition, many other Texas Tech University offices and departments were represented to include the Provost, Law School, Graduate School, and many of our colleges. We were also very fortunate to have government representatives from all levels present for the evening to include



Mr. H. Ross Perot, Sr. addresses audience attending 20th Anniversary Ball. Photo courtesy of the Lubbock AJ.

Lubbock City Mayor Tom Martin, State Representative Carl Isett, and United States Congressman Sam Johnson and Congressman Randy Neugebauer. Lastly, we were very much honored to have with us as our special guest and event keynote speaker, Mr. H. Ross Perot, Sr.

The evening began with a special reception with Mr. Perot where he was able to meet with some of our event sponsors, uni-

### What's Inside...



2010 Conference Information



Friends newsletter wins National Clarion Award



Upcoming exhibit: *A Day in the Life of an American Soldier in Vietnam*

# Letter from the Director



**Stephen F. Maxner, Ph.D.**

Director

The Vietnam Center and Archive

As many of you know, we at the Vietnam Center and Archive are proudly celebrating our 20th Anniversary this year. For two decades, we have been committed to preserving the history of United States experience in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Of equal importance, we have remained dynamically involved in promoting the study of that experience. As we celebrate the past twenty years, it is a time to reflect on what we have accomplished and be thankful to the many people who have made this extraordinary project possible – and it is also a time to look forward to what we hope the next twenty years will bring for this project.

Firstly, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our founding director Dr. James Reckner and to our many supporters here at Texas Tech University and in Lubbock, Texas. Jim's vision and energy have placed us on a remarkable course and he continues to inspire us, while our university and community remain tremendously supportive of what we do. We must express deep appreciation to the State of Texas and the United States Congress for their very generous financial support over the years. We also need to thank all of you, the Friends of the Vietnam Center, as well as our countless supporters from around our nation and

in other countries. Collectively, you are all essential to our current and continued success. I think it is also very important that we thank some specific groups of supporters, without whom our project would not have achieved as much as we have in the past 20 years.

Among our most important supporters remain our nation's Vietnam Veterans and other participants in the events surrounding the Vietnam War. Men and women who served in the military branches, in civilian and government agencies and organizations, or who were active in other ways during those tumultuous events, have entrusted us with their treasures – their personal letters, diaries, photo albums and much, much more. We are now and will always remain committed to preserving their history with the respect and honor it deserves. Our commitment remains that

“Another important goal for our project must remain the development of a new facility at Texas Tech University that will house the Vietnam Center, Archive, and a new Museum.”

we will collect and preserve the history of these events and experiences from all perspectives and our goal will continue to be that we provide as full a record as possible for the benefit of current and future generations.

As a result, our future plans and goals must also include broadening the collections and study of the Vietnam War and Vietnam experience to include groups of participants who are, up to now, not as well represented in the history of those events as they should be. Of particular importance, we must develop better pro-

grams that will preserve the history of the former Republic of Vietnam. We have enjoyed some recent and very important success in our work with the Vietnamese American Heritage Foundation and the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association. But much work remains if we hope to preserve an accurate record of their history as our allies in war and now as our fellow American citizens.

Another important goal for our project must remain the development of a new facility at Texas Tech University that will house the Vietnam Center, Archive, and a new Museum. This must become an essential goal for us, not just for our project and our university, but for us as a nation. The Vietnam War was the most divisive and important American event of the latter half of the 20th Century. No other event from 1950-1999 had such a powerful impact throughout the entirety of American society. Yet despite the importance of these events, and perhaps because of the divisiveness they caused, our nation remains without a National Vietnam War Museum. We are four decades from the cessation of hostilities yet there is no museum in our nation where our young men and women can learn about the service and sacrifice of our nation's Vietnam veterans.

With all of the wonderful support we receive, the future of the Vietnam Center and Archive remains very bright. However, the future of the history of the Vietnam War will remain less so without a national commitment to commemorate the events of that war and era through the creation of a National Vietnam War Museum. Such a national monument would have no better home than as an extension of the Vietnam Center and Archive on the campus of Texas Tech University. We invite all of you to join us as we work in the coming years to make this vision a reality. ★

## Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University and Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies Conference Announcement

### US Civil-Military Operations: From the Cold War to the War on Terror

March 4 & 5, 2010  
Washington, D.C.

One of the greatest challenges facing the United States military in Iraq and Afghanistan today is the creation of social, political, and economic stability while simultaneously engaging in combat operations against irregular forces. In July 2008, the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff published Joint Publication 3-57, *Civil-Military Operations*, the purpose of which was to establish a “joint doctrine for the planning and conduct of civil-military operations (CMO) by joint forces...” “At the strategic level, CMO focus is on

larger and long-term global or regional issues such as reconstruction, economic development, and stability... Across the full range of military operations, CMO are a primary military instrument to synchronize military and nonmilitary instruments of national power, particularly in support of stability, counterinsurgency and other operations dealing with asymmetric and irregular threats.” Civil-Military Operations are not new to the US experience at war and timely historical examples can be seen when looking at the period immediately following the Second World War to include CMO in Vietnam, the Philippines, and Latin

America. CMO became an essential component of the global US strategy of containing communism and manifested in numerous limited wars in support of that policy of containment. This conference will discuss some of these historical examples of CMO as well as the strategic, operational, and tactical applications and implications of CMO for Iraq and Afghanistan and in the Global War on Terror today.

We will publish additional information about this conference as it becomes available. Please check our website for timely updates –

[www.vietnam.ttu.edu/conference.htm](http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/conference.htm)

## Friends Newsletter Wins National Award

The *Friends of the Vietnam Center* newsletter has been selected as the winner of The Association for Women in Communications (AWC) 2009 National Clarion Award for Most Improved Newsletter (Print). The awards ceremony will be held at AWC's National Conference in Seattle, Washington on October 17th, 2009. Ann Curry of NBC's *Today Show* is being honored at the same ceremony with the AWC's International Matrix Award and will also be the keynote speaker. The *Friends* newsletter will be on display for the duration of the conference (October 15-17, 2009).

This year's Clarion competition attracted nearly 500 entries. There were 97 categories including those for maga-

zines, newspapers, brochures, graphic design, radio, television, advertising,

*Newsweek* just to name a few.

According to the AWC website, the Clarion awards began in 1972 and are open to both men and women as well as members and non-members of AWC. The award was named for the medieval trumpet known for its clarity and symbolizes excellence in clear, concise communications.

The Association for Women in Communications is a national organization whose mission is to champion the advancement of women across all communications disciplines by recognizing excellence, promoting leadership and positioning its members at the forefront of the evolving communications era. ★



A sample of the old design (left) and new design (right).

etc. Winners include high-profile national publications such as *BusinessWeek*, *Parade* publications, *SELF Magazine*, and



# THE VIETNAM CENTER AND ARCHIVE

## 20th Anniversary Ball

*A night of celebrating accomplishments and looking towards the future*

*continued from page one*

versity and community leaders, project staff and faculty, and other special guests. This reception, hosted in the Chancellor's Suite of the Jones AT&T Stadium at Texas Tech, provided a warm and relaxed venue where Mr. Perot and our guests were able to meet one another.

The reception was followed by our banquet which included a silent auction, the keynote presentation by Mr. Perot, and comments from some other guests. Our event emcee was Mr. Jim Douglass of the Texas Tech Alumni Association, who did a superlative job.

Mr. Perot's remarks were salient, inspiring and moving and helped our guests to better understand the significant mission of the Vietnam Center and Archive to collect and preserve the stories and history of our nation's veterans and heroes. Mr. Perot spoke of the meaning of his personal friendships with many of our nation's Vietnam veterans and POWs, especially Congressman

“ Mr. Perot reminded all present of these great men who selflessly sacrificed and endured so much on our nation's behalf. ”

Sam Johnson, a USAF pilot and Vietnam POW for more than six years. Mr. Perot reminded all present of these great men who selflessly sacrificed and endured so much on our nation's behalf. Mr. Perot reiterated several times just how vital he felt the Vietnam Center and Archive are to preserving this important history. You can watch the entire presentation from Mr. Perot online at our website: [www.vietnam.ttu.edu/20th](http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/20th).

The evening also provided the Vietnam Center and

Archive with an opportunity to arrange a special recognition ceremony for Dr. Jim Reckner, founding director of the Vietnam Center and Archive. We closely coordinated with the city of Lubbock as well as our State and Federal representatives, all of whom provided well deserved proclamations and recognition to Jim for his vision and leadership in creating and developing the Vietnam Center and Archive into what is truly a national treasure.

The Vietnam Center and Archive would like to extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to everyone who participated in this event and helped to make it



Mr. Perot (left) speaks with Congressman Sam Johnson (middle) and Vietnam Center founder and former director Dr. James Reckner (right) at the reception.



Courtesy of the Lubbock Avalanche Journal



Courtesy of the Lubbock Avalanche Journal



Top left: A view of the head table at the event. Top right: Mr. Perot speaks to the large audience of nearly 200 people at the beautiful Frazier Alumni Pavilion on the Texas Tech campus. Bottom left: Mr. Perot speaks with longtime friend and Vietnam POW, Congressman Sam Johnson. Bottom right: Mr. Perot speaks with Tech Chancellor Kent Hance and his wife Suzie in the Chancellor's suite at Jones AT&T stadium just prior to the Ball.

such a success. In addition to our many colleagues and supporters at Texas Tech, in our community, and from around the country, we would like to thank all of our event sponsors for their generosity. We extend a very special thank you to Mr. H. Ross Perot, Sr. for his wonderful remarks and contributions to our evening. We also offer our deep appreciation to Congressman Sam Johnson and Congressman Randy Neugebauer for their participation, as well as State Representative Carl Isett and Mayor Tom Martin. I think it is also essential to recognize

and thank the staff and faculty of the Vietnam Center and Archive for the tremendous job they did in planning and executing this gala event with such poise and elegance. As you can see from the pictures included in this newsletter, it was a beautiful evening about which all of our friends and supporters should be proud.

Lastly, we must thank all of you, the Friends of the Vietnam Center, and the countless veterans and other men and women who have participated in our projects. Whether you were with us on May 28 or not, the Vietnam

Center and Archive are such a remarkable success because of your constant and tireless dedication, support, and generosity. For that, we are forever in your debt. ★

### Want to see more?

To see videos of the Vietnam Center and Archive Ball and to learn more about this event, please visit [www.vietnam.ttu.edu/20th](http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/20th)

To see additional photos from the Ball, please visit our facebook page. You do not have to be a facebook member to view the photos:

[www.facebook.com/vietnamTTU](https://www.facebook.com/vietnamTTU)



## Accomplishments and Presentations of our Faculty and Staff



Mary Saffell, C.A., Associate Director of the Vietnam Archive, gave a presentation titled "Remembering Vietnam: Archives of an Unpopular War" at the Society of

Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana on May 23, 2009. The session was titled "WARchives: Documenting America's Wars and Military History." Other presentations covered aviation history, women pilots in World War II, and World War I collections.



Kelly Crager, Ph.D., Head of the Oral History Project, gave a presentation to the Memorial Day gathering at the Vietnam Veterans National Memorial in Angel Fire, New Mexico. The presentation contained extensive information about the Vietnam Center and Archive's mission to collect and preserve material related to the Vietnam War with an emphasis on the initiatives of the Oral History Project.



Victoria P. Lovelady, Communications Coordinator, was selected as the winner of the Association for Women in Communications 2009 National Clarion

Award for her work on the *Friends of the Vietnam Center* newsletter. Her redesign of the publication won the category for Most Improved Newsletter (Print). Refer to the article on page three for more information.

## A Day in the Life of an American Soldier in Vietnam



Heavy Weapons Expert in the 173rd Airborne of the United States Army.

Have you ever wondered what a typical American soldier saw, heard or experienced while on tour during the Vietnam War? What did they eat? Where did they sleep? What kind of music did they listen to? Did they have down time? If you would like answers to these questions and more, please come and experience the Vietnam Center and Archive's "A Day in the Life of an American Soldier in Vietnam" exhibit!

As part of the Vietnam Center and Archive's 20th Anniversary celebration, this photograph and artifact exhibit will be on display in the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Building of the Texas Tech University campus. The exhibit will be accessible to the campus community and the public during the Fall school semester, from the end of August until mid December. Viewing hours will be offered between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday

through Friday. The exhibit will feature around 30 high resolution copies of some of the Archive's finest black and white photographs and a few artifacts which help to illustrate a typical day in the life of a young American soldier serving in the military during the Vietnam War. In addition, the exhibit will also feature clips of songs that were favorites of the soldiers.

If you have questions regarding this exhibit or need assistance with planning your visit to the Texas Tech University campus, please contact Katrina Jackson by phone at (806)742-4750 or through e-mail at [katrina.jackson@ttu.edu](mailto:katrina.jackson@ttu.edu). All of the staff at the Vietnam Center and Archive hope you will join us in celebrating 20 years of success by coming to experience some of the highlights of our vast collections! ★

## Staff Spotlight on Kevin Sailsbury

By Victoria Lovelady  
Public Relations Coordinator

Kevin Sailsbury has been with the Vietnam Archive longer than almost any other staff member. A Lubbock native and Texas Tech graduate, he began his employment with the Archive in January of 2000 as a Work Study student lifting heavy boxes to assist with a book exchange program which collected donated books from libraries and schools to send to schools in Vietnam. Over time, Kevin became very supportive of the Center and Archive's mission and therefore jumped at the chance to accept a staff position when it was offered to him.

Kevin now works extensively with the Archive's audio/visual collections by converting old 8mm, 16mm, audio-tape and LP's into a digital format which is then added to our Virtual Vietnam Archive where it is searchable and therefore much more accessible to veterans, researchers and scholars around the



Kevin Sailsbury in the audio/visual digitization room.

world. He also acts as the official videographer for all of our events and provides detailed and informative tours to our many patrons.

When asked why he enjoys working for the Archive, Kevin enthusiastically states that he enjoys being involved with something which will inarguably contribute to history's understanding of the

war. "The Archive has been used as a resource by veterans of the war, by personnel searching for MIAs, by the Navy, the Marines, and the Army, and by the Cambodian War Crimes tribunal prosecuting leaders of the Khmer Rouge. And I'm a part of it," Kevin said. ★

## Student Spotlight on Anh Ho Nguyen

By Ann Mallett  
Vietnamese American Heritage Archivist



Anh Ho Nguyen and his wife Van Thanh Nguyen.

On October 14, 2008, Anh Ho Nguyen began working for the Vietnam Archive scanning and digitizing the Archive's Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association (FVPPA) Collection. His work will make these documents searchable and accessible to the public worldwide via the internet through the Archive's Virtual Archive. Anh's ability to read, write, and speak English and Vietnamese fluently has been a great help and asset to the Vietnam Archive. For instance, he is able to read the FVPPA documents written in Vietnamese and identify terms that will enable researchers to find those documents using keyword and subject

searches.

Anh is a Vietnamese graduate exchange student from Hanoi, Vietnam. He is working at the Vietnam Archive while earning his Masters in Business Administration at Texas Tech University (TTU). Prior to coming to the U.S., Anh studied Electrical Systems at Hanoi University of Technology. His choice to attend TTU in August of 2007 was due to his family's connections to and good relationship with the Vietnam Archive. He is the nephew of Dr. Dang Thuy Tram. The Vietnam Archive received the dairies of Dr. Tram in 2005 and in 2007 Random House published an English version of her dairies entitled *Last Night I Dreamed of Peace*. ★

# NEWSLETTER MEMBERSHIP FORM

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- ☐ Standard \$100 ☐ Corp. Benefactor \$500
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Contributions to the Vietnam Center are tax deductible as allowed by law. Mail this form with your check to:

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*Did you know?*

The Vietnam Center and Archive has a facebook page, a blog, and a listserv. For more information, please visit these links:

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/vietnamTTU](http://www.facebook.com/vietnamTTU)

### Blog

[www.vietnamarchive.blogspot.com](http://www.vietnamarchive.blogspot.com)

### Listserv

(to receive email updates)

[www.vietnam.ttu.edu/vietnamcenter/general/mailling.htm](http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/vietnamcenter/general/mailling.htm)

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