



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Vietnam Center and Archive™

FRIENDS OF THE VIETNAM CENTER



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Ten Years of the Virtual Vietnam Archive



The Virtual Vietnam Archive has gone through a number of different looks and enhancements over the past ten years, from the first version launched in November 2001 (far left), to the current version (right)

Justin Saffell

Head, Information Technology

In November 2001, the Vietnam Center and Archive launched the Virtual Vietnam Archive (VVA), a multi-year project to digitize the physical holdings of the VNCA and make them freely available through the internet. Ten years later, this continuing effort has resulted in the largest repository of information about the Vietnam War online.

The VVA received its first funding in December 2000, a four year, \$2 million grant from the Institute of Library and Museum Services. The first year of the project was spent hiring staff and purchasing equipment and software, including the Cuadra Star database package that powers the VVA, and working to set up the infrastructure for the project.

Digitization of materials began in late Summer 2001, first focusing on photographs and slides, with document and manuscript digitization beginning in September. That same month work began on designing the first search interface for the Virtual Vietnam Archive.

The VVA search page was first made available to researchers in November 2001 with a little more than 35,000 items (64,000 pages) available online. Ten years later, in October 2011, the 500,000th item, a newspaper clipping from the Wall Street Journal, Asia, was added to the Virtual Vietnam Archive by student assistant Brooke Boysaw. The VVA now has over 3.3 million pages of material available to researchers.

When the VVA project was first conceived, very few archives and li-

braries were conducting digitization projects, especially on the scale the Vietnam Archive was proposing. The past ten years has seen a change in the way researchers gather information, and now users expect to find digital information on archive's websites. The VVA project, though, remains one of the largest efforts currently under way.

In September 2011 the VVA saw its 10,000,000th search conducted. For the first few years of the project, the VVA averaged less than 60,000 searches a year, but as more items

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What's Inside...



Vietnam Center and Archive
Events and Activities for
2012

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Stephen F. Maxner, Ph.D.

Director

The Vietnam Center and Archive

With the New Year upon us, we want to make sure all of the Friends of the Vietnam Center know about the many upcoming events and activities we have planned for 2012. Some of these have already been included in the previous newsletter so they will not come as a surprise. However, we do have some additional events and activities planned that you might want to know about in the event you are nearby or would like to plan your travel so you may join us.

As most of you know, every year the Vietnam Center and Archive hosts an event to celebrate the Tet Holiday. We realize the controversial nature of doing this given the close association between the word "Tet" and the Tet



2012, The Year of the Dragon.

Holiday has been a part of Vietnamese culture for hundreds of years and is a tradition as rich in Vietnam as Thanksgiving and Christmas are in the United States. As part of that celebration, we work closely with our Vietnamese Student Association at Texas Tech (comprised almost exclusively of Vietnamese American students) and they provide a wonderful program to help our guests understand what the Tet Holiday means to Vietnamese people. Our Tet Cel-

bration will take place from 3-5 PM on January 19, 2012, at the Hall of Nations in the International Cultural Center at Texas Tech.

Please remember that we will also begin the spring semester with our Vietnam Center and Archive 2012 Guest Lecture Series. This series, which is made possible through very generous support from the Helen Jones Foundation, received a wonderful response from our university and community in 2011 and we think this next year will be just as successful. On January 25, we will have Dr. Bob Sorely who will discuss his latest research on leadership in the Vietnam War within the context of his biography of General William Westmoreland. In March we will have Brigadier General Tom Draude who served thirty years as a US Marine Corps officer, to include three tours in Vietnam, and is currently President and CEO of the Marine Corps University Foundation. In April, we will have Dr. Raymond Scurfield who served on a combat psychiatric team in Vietnam and will discuss his three decades of research and work in the area of PTSD. In the fall semester, we will have award winning aviator Dick Rutan speak about his remarkable world records and accomplishments. Rutan started his flying career in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. We will conclude the 2012 series in November with Rocky Bleier, who recovered from very serious wounds suffered during his service in Vietnam with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and went on to become a four-time NFL Super Bowl champion with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Be sure to watch for more information about these engagements.

In early April, 2012, we will co-host a reception, book launch, and discussion in Washington, D.C., with the Office of the Secretary of Defense. This event will focus on the most recent publication of Volume VI

of the Secretaries of Defense Historical Series, *McNamara, Clifford, and the Burdens of Vietnam 1965-1969*, by Edward Drea. The event will probably take place at the National Archives downtown or the Library of Congress. Once we have the final details, we will send a special invitation to any active Friends of the Vietnam Center so you may join us if you are in the DC area.

Finally, also in April, we will have a conference workshop. As this implies, this will not be our typical conference. As many of you know, we are currently working with the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration. As such, we are already coordinating with them to focus national attention on important wartime events and themes consistent with that commemoration. After giving this some thought, we have decided to bring together a group of prominent scholars and historians who will help us in planning a major conference for 2013 that will examine the significant events and activities of 1963. Discussion will focus on the year 1963 and various themes to include JFK's Vietnam policy and the idea of the "Kennedy Withdrawal;" Ngo Dinh Diem and the RVN; U.S. advisors, the ARVN, and combat operations; the Communist strategy and policy; Vietnam and domestic American politics; the media and Vietnam; the International and Cold War dimensions of Vietnam; and the consequences of 1963 for America and Vietnam. This workshop will take place April 27-28, 2012, at the Overton Hotel in Lubbock, Texas. More information will be made available in the weeks and months ahead.

As you can see, we have a very full year planned for 2012 and we look forward to you joining us! Be sure to check our website [www.vietnam.ttu.edu] for more details as they become available. *

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were added and as the Virtual Archive became more widely known, the number of searches has seen a steady increase, now averaging around 250,000 searches a month.

The Virtual Archive is used by wide range of researchers, from veterans searching for information for benefits claims or on comrades they have lost touch with, to high school and college students, to authors and documentary film makers. These thousands of researchers have downloaded over 3 million items from the VVA, and VNCA materials have been published in hundreds of books, journals, and films.

The growth of the Virtual Archive helped speed the growth of the physical archive as well. Before the launch of the VVA, the Archive averaged around 100 item donations a year. Post-2001 saw a substantial increase, with a peak of over 500 donations in 2006.

The VVA would not have been the success it is without the work of over 150 faculty, staff, and students who have contributed to the project:

Eduardo Agaton; Aaron Alford; Lauri Anderson; Sebastian Arandia; Mandi Barnard; Elizabeth Barnes; Ben "Jake" Bitonel; Brooke Boysaw; Brittany Breeden; Margy Brown; Danita Buckley; Amy Burnett; Laura Calkins; Marissa Caruso; Courtney Cobb; Kevin Connness; Kelly Crager; Yongjun Dan; Dang Thuy Phuong-Tram; Laura Darden; Cecily Darwin; Rahul Deshpande; Ian Desrosiers; Ralston Dorn; Linda



The Virtual Vietnam Archive started on one single-processor 70GB server in 2001, and now has expanded to a five box Server Area Network (SAN) with 32 processors and a storage capacity of 60TB.

Duy; Tanner Easley; Molly Edwards;

Michael Eisenwine; Stephanie Elias; Sothy Eng; Abel Esquivel; Cynthia Evans; Jessica Fontenot; Maury Ford; Ronald Frankum, Jr.; Sabrina Frizell; Jacob Furr; John Gaines; John Gallagher; Jen Gallagher; Robyn Galloway; Casey Gandy; Shannon Geach; Abraham

George; Jan-Tosh Gerling; David Gosman; Reagan Grau; Saurabh Gupta; Curtis Hale; Sean Hammond; Jessica Harrell; Joseph Harriger; Michael Henson; Phuong Le Hoang; Jonathan Hood; Caitlin Hopson; Rebekah Horelica; Sandy Hunt; Jed Irwin; M. Jackson; Vivek Jaiswal; Reccia Jobe; Angela Johnson; Dipen Joshi Rajendra; Arta Kabashi; Rohit Kawathekar; Khuong Vu; David Knott; Bharat Kotikanyadanam; Brian Kuebler; Sara Kutscher; Jacqueline Kutscher; Eunice Lee; Collin Lewis; Paige Littlefield; Ty Lovelady; Victoria Lovelady; David Lundy; Stephanie Lyells; David Lyon; Son Mai; Anna Mallett; Debra Mangwende; Humberto Martinez; Deepak Mathur; Steve Maxner; Tyler McCormack; Jennifer McIntyre; Mike McNair; Rayanne Melot; Laurie Mikel; Tammi Mikel; Nicholas Miller; Cynthia Miller; Khwaja Moinuddin; Amy Mondt; Sheon Montgomery; Katie Moore; Mindy Moser; Majid Mujahid; Madhuri Nallabolu; Bobby Nanes; Raghuram Narasimhan; Heather Nelson; Angela Newsome; Nancy Nguyen; Phuong T.T. Nguyen; Thanh Duc Nguyen; Phuong Thi Kim Nguyen; Ngan Nguyen; Anh Ho Nguyen; Carrie Xuan Nguyen; Kris Norton; Kyla Osborne; Anita Pai; Sachin Parikh; Roshni Patel; Nellie Pavlyshyna; Varun Pendharkar; Curtis Peoples; Bryan Perez; Rachael Peters; Shankaralingam Pitchiah; Piyanwan Praritmongkol; Robin Rankin; Nikhil Rao; James Reckner; Jenna Remily; Thomas Reynolds; L. Rieken; Brian Robertson; Camille Rodriguez;



The first item added to the Virtual Archive (left), a photograph of a factory under construction from the Douglas Pike Photograph Collection [va000001], and the 500,000th item (right), a newspaper clipping out of the Wall Street Journal, Asia from the Garnett Bell Collection [11271922052]



Two U.S. officers who went to Vietnam discuss the return of missing American servicemen left with the impression that local and army search teams no longer functioned, if they ever did. Oct. 18, 1980

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Justin Saffell; Mary Saffell; Kevin Sailsbury; Garrett Salzman; Nikhil Santhi; Jessica Savell; Jason Scheller; Amanda Schrein; Sean Scribner; Brian Shay; Trilok Shetti; Garrett Smith; Valerie Sopena; Christopher Spear; Jason Stewart; Alex Stoll; Nirmalkumar Sugumar; Natalie Swindle; Mary Ruth Thurmond; Robert Tidwell; To Phuong; Samuel Todd; Brooke Tomlin; Sandra Torres; Tran Minh Phuong; Huy Quang Trinh; Christopher Trobridge; Shiva Vaidyanathan; Kirtika Venkataramani; Jason Vermillion; Richard Verrone; Dana Vickers; Malaylak Vongsaly; Kindra Walker; Jennifer Walls; Jeff Wilhelm; Michael Wolf; Ji Yoon Woo; Hailey Yeilding; Sandra Zamarripa; Dong Zhou.

Although the first IMLS grant funding the Virtual Vietnam Archive was only for four years, the Vietnam Center and Archive was fortunate enough to receive four more one-year IMLS grants to continue work on the project. Digitization continues at a rate of approximately 2,000 new items a month, averaging around 13,000 pages. Although the current IMLS grant is set to expire in 2012, the VNCA is committed to continuing adding to the VVA utilizing other resources, including other grants and our yearly state budget.

The first ten years of the Virtual Vietnam Archive have been a remarkable success, and we look forward to the next ten years. *

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2011 saw a number of changes at the Vietnam Center and Archive, starting with the departure of Communications Coordinator Victoria Lovelady in February. Victoria is now with Lenox International in Dallas. In July Oral Historian Jason Stewart accepted a position teaching in Mississippi. Finally, Associate Archivist Ty Lovelady will soon be joining Victoria in Dallas. We wish all three of them the best of luck with their new endeavors.

February also saw the loss of DaNita Buckley to a sudden illness. DaNita's absence is felt by our entire organization.



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