

The following interview was conducted with Hoa Tran for the Star City Treasure AmeriCorps Oral History Project. It took place on May 16th, 2006 at F street community Center in Lincoln Nebraska. The interviewer is Haishu Zhu.

A: Hoa Tran, thank you for allowing me to interview you today. Let's begin by asking you a little about yourself. Please tell me how to spell your name.

B. My name spells Hoa Tran. H-o-a, T-r-a-n.

A. Thank you. Where did you grow up?

B. I grew up in Saigon.

A. Could you tell me a little about the city?

B. Actually, my family came from Vietnam in 1954 when the country divided North and South by 17 parallel. And my family chose to move to South because we can not stay with communist and people from south maybe move out. To my understanding there was about one million Northern Vietnamese, most of them Catholics, move south, and about 100 thousand moved from south move north because they think they like communist. And we were under international commission/committee help (us) to supervise moving to make sure no fight again. So, it is by 1954....

A. Is the city very big? Where was the city located?

B. It's located of Saigon. It is used to be capital of South Vietnam but it changed to the new name in 1975 when communist took over South Vietnam, and now it's called Hu-chi-ming city.

A. I know the city's new name.

B. Yeah.

A. When did you come to the United States?

B. I came to the United States in 1975. One day, before the communist took over South Vietnam. So I was the luckiest one who was rescued by the American rescue ship, and we were (transferred) to the (Long) Island for about a month, and we flew to the San Diego, California. And we stayed in the refugee Camp over there. It used to be a Marine Corp Base...

A. So it took long time?

B. Mn... It took me about two months before I flew with my, other refugee to Kansas City because we have sponsorship in the Springfield Missouri. So, yeah...

A. Would you please tell me a little about your life before you came to the United States?

B. My life about Saigon is pretty nice before the communist took over South Vietnam. And we have to be with the war all the time because we try to protect ourselves against communism. And American supported us to organize South Vietnam to self defense. So I was in the little Saigon about that time.

A. Were you a soldier or a student? What were you doing at that moment? I mean, before you came over.

B. So, by that time, I was very young, so I just graduated and became a teacher. I taught music just about a year before I left the country so I was very young, then I got the chance to come to the U.S. and I re-enter the university.

A: Your major was music. Why did you decide to come to America, here?

B: Well, because I believe with my family belief in “we anti-communist”. So it is dangerous if we stay. We learned lessons from many incidents during the war. For an example, like the offenses in 1968, when communists took over the city in the South Vietnam. (Wai) City the assists the capital in the central, not too far away from the (leangee,) the 17 parallel and the communists they called the Assassination, maybe about over 5000 Vietnamese, even students, teachers or markets, because the local communists maybe recognized them like anti-communist, the reason they were doing that maybe they escape from the country. It’s the way they deal with the anti-communist so that I have to fly my own in 1975, and I have to escape my own. We have to...most of the South Vietnamese have lots of experience fighting with communists. It’s so scary. Something like at the end of the war, because after American withdrew completely the war in 1973, we have nobody supporting us. So we just keep going the war for two more years because the congress from the United States cut out all the support so that why we have to leave the war. And Communist was so strong by that time because they were supported by China and Russian and all the communist countries. And island of the North and South Vietnam became very disaster.

A. Did you join the war at that time?

B. I almost get a chance. By the time, I was ready to go, we have no more support. They cut off everything I don’t even have gas to run our vehicle. They have no money for training more soldier. So I was lucky to get away from the war. So I also got lucky to come to the U.S.

A. In 1975, you came to the United States, with your family or with your friends, or with...

B. By that time, nobody expected to go to U.S.

A. Why?

B. Because nobody expected U.S will welcome everybody. We just run around looking for the way to get out the county the last minute.

A. How did they find you and select you?

B. So, at the last minute, it’s about the traveling out of the Vietnam very difficult. So it’s only by air or by water because land’s continent already occupied by the communist. So that’s the only way to get out by air or by water, fly out of the country. And it’s difficulty to go by air because many people, the rich people, had money to buy the ticket, and they got stuck there because the fly was not very popular anymore, only by military. So, I think in 1975, the airport is (not) the way to get out of the country because they have blank the transportation, **So I flew out to the open sea, I witnessed the corporation,** by air that way, I think we have the ship somebody rescuing us in open sea. I run along with the fish man because they have boats. So they can travel to the international line and we were lucky to get rescued by the American ship. They were already arrived in the open sea. Also, by the city, they called Vung Tau, So I was in the Vung Tau during the last minute, I run along with the fish man.

And we were just lucky when were traveling island to escape the communist. By the last time communist shooting the rocket exploded by in the water. So we tried to get a way from running the rocket. We were just lucky to get rescued by the American ship over there. And I believed that many navy ship called 7 Free protecting our operation and we have 8 cargo ships ready to pick up refugee the cargo ship ready to pick up refugee who

wanted to fly out from Saigon to ...They landed on American ship brought us into the cargo ship. So I met a lot of people from Saigon on the ship, even I met Mr. Lang Tran, leader, the very important person on my ship.

A: Do you still have contact with that person, right now?

B: No, when we came to the U.S it's one happen. He is still alive. And I believe that Mr. Tran, Lan was killed by the car accident for some reason. I learned from the media.

A: How to spell that person's name?

B: Tran, Lan. Frist name -Lan; Last name, just like mine- Tran

A: Thank you! Where were your parents at that moment?

B: By the time, my parents already ?... I have my brother and two sisters' families. They all married having many children. My brother was stacked in Long Tai, the city was about 45 miles north east of Saigon. They were fighting with communist party the last minute, a lot of people got killed the last minute. I run away alone and stayed with the fish man by the Hong Dao. At that time communist had not really attached Hong Dao because they tried to surrounding the capital of Saigon. So not many (fight/people) in Vung Taw by that time. So I have free to go with American. I survived when they fight with 7 Free out there. So I had free to go by that time.

A. So your brother and your sister, they knew where you were going, or they didn't know?

B: Yeah, actually, I visited them about two weeks before I left the country. I told them my plan: I tried to escape with the fish man because I think maybe there's someway to get out the country.

A: What did they say?

B: My sister said that you were single and you are easy to go. Not like us, because we have many small children. So, if we go they would be killed because they couldn't stand with the hungry and something else. I am free to go because I was single and was young. I could find anyway I go.

A. If your brother had chance, do you think he would go with you?

B: Yeah, I think so.

A: He is older brother, right?

B. He's oldest brother. He was in the army, the South Vietnamese army fighting with communist so, he was in the ...So, he wished to go.

A: Where is he right now?

B. Right now he is in Vietnam. Little island? I used to be. It's called Geakien...

A. What's that mean?

B. The name of the village, It's kind of Northern Capital (Catholic) Vietnamese gathered together. So Northern Vietnamese moving in 1954, we were resettled in that area.

A: How to spell your brother's name?

B: My brother's name is Hung Tran.

A: What is the name of the place he was living?

Geakien(m). Giakiem

B: It's in the province called Longkhing.

A: How to spell it?

B: L-o-n-g-k-i-n-g. It is in the province. But right now it's changed to different name because the communists reorganize the provinces?

A: What's the new name?

B: The new name maybe is Dong-Mai.

A: D-o-n-g.

B: M-a-i. It's bigger province.

A. As you look back, what do you think you about leaving the country you were born in and coming to the United States?

B. I think that an opportunity, because I never thought that I can come to the United States for living. But the opportunity, the last minutes, we don't know where to go. So I was lucky to be rescued by the American rescue ship. We were not expecting them, but the ship was already there waiting for us. But they were very organized. Then, all ship, I believe they just transferred lots of Vietnam refugee from central Vietnam to Saigon, to the south. They just assisted them go before they rescue us to the U.S. so that's why they've already there. We are not allowed to go there a few days before the last minutes. A lot of them were killed because they **were very stricken about let people go out. They have lots of ship helping people go out for the last minutes...arrest people something, disturbing peace**, but at the last minutes, American controlled the public population for us.

A: If no people rescued you at that moment, what's going to happen? Can you imagine? If no rescue ship over there, what were you going to do?

B: We might have already talked to the fish man, because we have many fish men having bigger ship and big boat, fishing boat. And we talked together, if no one rescue us, we'll travel together maybe by boat we travel to Australia, because I learned in the geography about the land was very big, no many people living. We thought about our plan to go over there if no people rescue us. We have lots of fresh water and rice. **We... fish/fresh water from the sea. We survived with the fish man. The ship got organized, rich and fresh water. The basic things. If we have fish, we'll survive with fish man. We travel by the ship with fish man. We have fresh water, fish, and rice to survive.**

A: Did you have to pay for everything?

B: Yes, we put money together. The fish men, including me, and with the family together were ready to go. But we were just lucky to get rescued by that time.

A: Did you learn any English before you came here because you mention you wanted to go to Austria or American? Do you know any English?

B: Actually, during my high school, we can choose to learn French and English, I fist choose French, then later I say many American come, then I chose to learn practical English. So I know some English by the time I escape the communist. When I was at refugee camp, I tried to talk to American, but I still couldn't catch much the language. So, later, I have to learn very hard. I, first of all, would learn English at any price. Even I have to re-enter University to learn something else, but English was still my basic ?...

A: Where university did you go to?

B: Spring filed, Missouri. So it's about the same size as Lincoln. Over 200, 000 people.

A: When did you go to the university?

B: What did you say?

A: The first university you enrolled after you came to this country.

B: I enrolled at the university called Southwest Missouri State University.

A: When?

B: In 1979.

A: After 4 years you came to this country?

B: No.

A: After 4 years you came to this country, you joined in the University. What's your major?

B: My major's in Music.

A: You continued your music study?

B: Yeah. I pretty sure my subject. But my target was learning English. So that's helping my future working here.

A: Later, you became a music teacher?

B: No. I became a translator, an interpreter and I worked for refugee population, right after I graduated.

A: So, you didn't continue your music?

B: No.

A: Are you still playing any instrument for yourself or doing something?

B: No, not really. I still like music. Sometimes, I entertained myself with some music. But...I am using it as my major anymore.

A: When did you graduate from your university?

B: I graduated in 1983.

A: In 1983...

B: Yeah.

A: What's your first job?

B: When I came to Lincoln, I just worked for surviving job. I was a volunteer to work with refugees from Lincoln.

A: In Lincoln?

B: Yeah.

A: So you came to Lincoln to be a volunteer helping refugees?

B: Yeah.

A: Why did you choose Lincoln to help people?

B: I don't like to live in the big city with big Vietnamese community like California, or Texas. So, I choose Lincoln same size as Springfield about population and we have small Vietnam community here. I know more people arriving U.S. every year arriving at Lincoln. So I will work with new arrived refugees.

A: When did you get your first job?

B: My first job was ...I worked as packer and deliver for 5 years before I worked for refugees before I was really hired work for refugees.

A: Still in Lincoln?

B: Yeah.

A: And what's the first job you have for the refugee?

B: In 1990, I was hired to work at (USCC)Capital Social Services like a case manager, my job just to greeting new arriving refugee from the airport and bring them to the city of Lincoln help them to find housing, financial for the family for first few month.

A: Is that easy or very easy to help refugee because you came to Lincoln?

B: But by that time you know, not so many yet, we are trying to figure out what company can be accepting refugees, farm land... and see later we have many electrical company ...hire refugee and we are trying to help them with job learning. Later we do some job... to help them find better job.

A. How long did you work at that place?

B About two years. And I transfer to JTPA.

A: What's JTPA?

B: It stands for Job- Training Pattern ship Act. My program was under Job links program. Job link help direct refugee to looking for job. Survival job and job...

A: So your fist job is to help refugees locate in Lincoln, and your second job helps refugees find job. Is that correct?

B: Yes.

A: Could you please tell me again what's the organization? The first job?

B: Job link, link likes the connection.

A: Job link.

B: Nn.

A: Do you still help that place?

B: No, because after I help refugee work by their own, working their survival job and my program was cut out. So I have to find different job. So I go back to Education.

A: Oh.

B: By that time in 1995. I was lucky to be hired by Lincoln Public School as Bilingual Liaison. And I work from 1995 until today.

A: From 1995 to today.

B: So, it's continue my job. Like job ...for refugees because many new generations got education they found better job. They keep on going higher education at UNL, some college, SCC. That's why I have to help the family with the new generation. I am very proud of my work.

A: The new generation, that means the ...

B. Children.

A. The children. Son, daughter or graduate children.

B: Both.

A: Both.

B: Yeah. Because from the oldest to the youngest, you know, I see a lot of successful Vietnamese students.

A: What did you do? How do you help them?

B: I just help the school, sign them up in school. Like meet each student from school, I was the one who talks to their parents about what's going on in the school, and help them focus on their study. That's why they are very successful. I was glad there is information about Vietnamese Asian people excel in Lincoln Public School. The drop out rate was very low comparing with other economic minority. Vietnamese students are very successful.

A: Can you remember one or two happy stories when you help people, Vietnamese family and students?

B: We have lots of successful stories. I can see some students attending Wesleyan, Trang Ho, ELL student. Very population with lots of scholarship. She is very outstanding student.

A: What's student' name?

B: T-r-a-n-g, Last name H-o.

A: Trang Ho, is this a boy or girl?

B: A girl,

A: What is she doing?

B: Right now she just graduated from Wesleyan, maybe moving to the higher degree, maybe in England because she got scholarship. She is the winner of the scholarship. She maybe travels to England for studying higher degree. She majors in Spanish and political science. Her story is popular. But I remember a student, she was very young, and (she) attending public school, transferring to Lincoln high and she graduated from Wesleyan. She is very successful.

A: So, you know this girl when was very young, and you see her grow up until she receive high education in another country with scholarship.

B: Yeah. Park middle school invited her to talk to students over there about how she became an outstanding student. She's glad to come back to the middle school (the school when she was very young) to talk to the students.

A: So what did you do when helping other students? How did you do that? Are you the only person, Liaison, helping students in the LPS?

B: Nn (yes), so my job normally helps set up meeting with parents. And we talked to the counselor and administer to talk to them. Some of the young children need to follow up the new way. And they skipped school. We help them set up meeting with teacher, counselor and parents to come to talk. So, many of them coming back become very successful.

A: So you mean parents still have English difficulty? They need help.

B: Yes, my job normally in the language field. I help connect the Lincoln School and family. Because many parents even they are here for over ten years or more, their English is still not improved very much. So, they depend on the children. But sometimes, younger people have friends, parents need to know what they are doing in the school whatever. I am the one who helps parents understand what they are doing.

A: What's the department name?

B: My department? Right now we call it federal program because we have many different programs in the department and my smaller program is called ELL, English Language Learners. So we are with bilingual population. We working with Spanish population, Russian, Muslim, Arabic and ...we have twelve bilingual Liaison right now. We are all working with our own population.

A: Is Vietnamese the biggest one, the largest population?

B: No, right now we are the second biggest, because most of our ELL programs were very successful, but now the top population in ELL program is Spanish and they are like new arrival. They need lots of time...

A: How do you think your previous experience, life experience and job experience, helping your work as a bilingual liaison at LPS?

B: I have to improve step by step. After I graduated from university, my speaking was not very fluent. Even I know how to write English and read in English, my ascent was still difficult to be understood by American. So I have to improve the way I'm talking. It's a lot of work. So I worked with translation to help me to learn English. I have to talk every day with American so my English improved a lot. I learned lots of skills from other American professionals, like counselor, administrator, so we are on the system help parents understand. I am glad that I can do this job, connect the big community to understand Vietnamese and other people to...

A: Do you think you like Lincoln?

B: Yeah, I think Lincoln is very nice city. We feel comfortable to live here. Many of our Vietnamese refugees now became citizen. They settled with nice job, housing. Many of them own house. City of Lincoln really works more and many Vietnamese are hard worker. So they filled heavy labor force. But for the children, I expect them to work with professional. So my job is try to make the transition from survivor to successor.

A: Thank you, that's wonderful. I am asking, may I ask, are you citizen here?

B: Yes.

A: When did you get the citizenship?

B: I became U.S citizen in 1982 one year before I graduated from university as a student.

A: So you applied for the citizenship?

B: Yes, I have to pass the test. They asked questions about like civic question. Like high school civic subject. They ask questions what's the biggest state. One Vietnamese tried to past. That's my other story. By the time, becoming a U.S citizen is still easy. So I still remember the story, she asked, "What's the biggest state in the United State?" She said, "Nebraska," But they heard, "Alaska." So she passed the test. But now it became difficult for people to pass the test. If they know you have university degree, they ask tough question.

A: Are you helping people pass citizenship test?

B: There are lots of system/class help people become U.S. citizen. Many of them pass test after 5 years' applying for citizen of U.S.

A: Is test harder than the test you took before?

B: I think so, yeah. Much harder and more trick. You have to pay for the test. Filled the application to become U.S. citizen.

A: You took test for free?

B: Yes, before it's free, and now cost more money.

A: How much?

B: I don't know. Hundreds of dollars.

A: May I ask, are you married?

B: Yes, I am married. I have three wonderful children. One son and two daughters.
A: How old are they?
B: My oldest daughter turned 19 years old. And she is attending UNL.
A: What's your expectation to her?
B: She is trying to be a pediatrician. So right now, I made two words for her. The first word is she has to get **stride** A in High School and she made it at North East High School. She graduated last year from North East High School and she was ready to transfer to UNL. She finished the first year of UNL. Still have high grade.
A: How about other children?
B: My son's still in North East high school. My youngest is in Perching.
A: Elementary school?
B: Yes, he is 4th grader at perching.
A: What's your wife doing?
B: My wife works as a sectary the same program as I was in. ELL. She helps students fill the file, join in the school, and attendance. Normally, every bilingual student has to learn to how to pass testing in order to attending school. Ell program.... ELL test them all from the beginning. Even they were attending the home school, they were still belong to the ELL program. We have some Ell center.. We have 19 Centers now in Lincoln. That's why I have to travel to help family in different school. The school requests, every I trave by visiting, helping counselor, administer. It's lost of work. Even in summer, I still work for summer school. Help translate a lot of important information, for example, we did it every year. That's keep me busy every year.
A: Could I say that most of people, Vietnamese people in Lincoln know all your family?
B: Most of people know me.
A: most of people know you.
B: yes. Because I worked for the parents, and now they have new families and I don't say I am popular, but lots of people know me.

A: How do you feel your job?
B: I like it. I keep on working on it as school needs me.
A: You have no attempt to change your job in the future like that last two jobs. Do you want to have any change to your job?
B: No, not now. So I am ready to retire from this job.
A: Would you please tell me how you know your wife? You knew her at work?
B: No. After I graduated, I worked as a volunteer working with the church choir helping them train the singer to sing together in the choir? We have Vietnamese church choir where they can sing in the group.
A: Where is it?
B: At Vietnamese church in Lincoln, it's called Immaculate' Heart of Mary. It crossed the North East High School. It's used to be a Lutheran Church-First Lutheran Church. They sold to Vietnamese Church. It's big church. It's at 84th and Adam. Very nice moving out there.
A: You and your wife met over there?
B: So that's why I know my wife at the church, singing together, I was a leader conductor of the choir.
A: She was a singer.

B: My wife was one of them.

A: One of them. What was she doing at that time?

B: She just graduated from North East High School and started working in electric cal. When I was married to her I found my job working for refugee. I helped her change her job, working for refugee family. Her first job working for refugee was Curtis and Associate. It's working for the public helping people try to find the survival job, just like me. But they have more technique, you know, of the company, called Curtis and Associate is a national wide organization. Lincoln has a very good program like that.

A: How did she find the sectary job at the LPS?

B: She kept learning to become a professional sectary. She got degree in sectary.

A: Where did she get the degree?

B: She learned by connecting Internet with school. She got degree from study. It's an opportunity for her because the sectary of our office died.

A: She died?

B: Yeah. They need to fill the position, and I introduced her to the job. She didn't like the sectary job. Later, she was promoted to work with me like bilingual Liaison. My wife work at her job like sectary, keep on working on enroll assessment, the new student.

A: How does she like her job? As a sectary.

B: I think she feel comfortable.

A: How many year has she been working at this position?

B: My wife? She was there for couple years. So, It's about 7 years.

A: About 7 years, and she likes it.

B: Yeah. She helps many refugees no matter what kind of minors. She has to deal with people speak in different languages. That's why we have bilingual liaison to support her, anybody cannot speak another language. So...

A: You come to work together?

B: Sometime, she do (does) her work and I do my work. But we are in the same department. Sometimes help her. She is bilingual and she can handle herself. I don't have to interferer her job. Language, like Spanish Liaison has to help her out if the family can't speak in English, but they speak in Spanish so that the bilingual Liaison has to help her do assessment. Help parents understand the procedure, what need to be, lot of work, very busy sometimes.

A: Does she have family in Lincoln, Nebraska? I mean, are her parents here? Do she have brother and sisters?

B: She arrived at here same year as me in 1975. Her family used to live in the Vung Taw area. So we came to the last city to ...She also traveled by boat at open sea was rescued by rescue ship.

A: How old was she at that time?

B: She was about 10 or 11 years old, very young.

A: Do you have any family member coming to this country later?

B: Yeah. My sister came and she lived in California. They sooner join us in the United States. It's like big family with boat people.

A: What's that mean, boat people?

B: Means people travel by boat.

A: By boat, not by ship, just by boat.

B: Because we were rescued later. But they travel like me but not dangerous because they maybe found in open sea a few weeks, they got the ship, the commercial ship to rescued them. So, by that time more people got rescued.

A: How big was the boat?

B: It's about not very big. Normally, the fishing boat.

A: The fishing boat?

B: Yeah. It's the fishing boat about 20 feet long. About the size of the room (conference room). About 5-6 feet wide

A: Cross the ocean?

B: Nn, many Vietnam escaped by that way. They have to go to the open sea without water. Very dangerous.

A: When did she come to here, the United States?

B: When?

A: When?

B: In 1990. By that time I worked for refugees. Also, she came..

A: Came to Lincoln?

B: No. To California. They like the big city. My niece and nephew came first, like the boat people status, found job and bought house over there. If you have chance to travel to California over there, maybe you should stop by at Little Saigon. It's not far away from Lo San ...and many people living in that area, become very crowded and a few hundred thousands Vietnamese and Chinese, and Chinese from Vietnam. They escaped like boat people because the communist exclusion in the country. Many chinese had to get out the country. The Chinese had to get out the country. Just the same as other Vietnamese people, boat people. We were sponsored by the U.S. and many of them lived in California opening business. So if you have chance over there, you see like in Saigon before.

A: How about their economic background and condition after they came to this country? Do you think they make living by themselves or supported by the government?

B: Because we came under refugee status, and we go support the basic, you know, like welfare we have to star from nothing, like the real poor we tried to lean to earn our own, open business. Many of them are very successful.

A: How about the living condition right now? How do you think their improvement?

B: I think so, like other Asian, many of them are very successful, many professional, many people came in about my time, 1975, now they became doctor, lawyer, or they became professional from nothing.

A: Did you have chance to go back to Vietnam? Visit your brother and other family member?

B: Yeah, right now they opened after 84, because the new economic they called innovation in Vietnam. They open for foreign investment, traveling, the same as in China. Right now very open. So now not all people travel out the country anymore. I think that the economic makes the country live alone... helping people survive in their business.

A: So right now, Vietnamese they don't have to come to America by ship, by boat. Their living condition improved in the country.

B: Nn,

A: Did you get chance to go back to visit?

B: Not yet, I am still afraid my own. Some other people went back to visit, they said that it's ok. They welcome us. They called us like Viet Kieu.

A: What's that mean?

B: That means that the Vietnam living abroad.

A: How to spell it?

B: V-i-e-t-, K-i-e-n. Viet kieu. Separate between here.

A: Separate them between Viet and Kieu.

B: Nm, Viet means Vietnamese; Kieu means the foreign living. So they call us Viet Kieu.

A: So right now you are welcome to come back to visit?

B: Yeah, but some people with political background may be are not welcome.

A: You don't have political background?

B: No really, but sometimes others, like if you work here, like you work in ...discussing something here talking about communist sometimes, they don't like you when you come back. Not welcome, I have story, people come back not welcome.

A: What did they do?

B: They send them back. People have to go back to the U.S. It may depend on the case.

A: Would you please tell me how you feel your life here comparing to the life your brother in Vietnam?

B: I think I have good opportunity to leave. My own and my family life, my skills much better than before. I am so glad that American gave me the chance, to help me.

A: What's your recommendations to other people following behind you?

B: So, you have to take a chance or opportunity when come. You never know when because to my understanding the Unites States is the country of immigrant refugee. They gave the chance to you to come to U.S. If you come at the right time, you are welcome like legally immigrant or refugees. But if you come at the wrong time, if you are as... not welcome.

A: Could you explain more?

B: I work with so many cases of refugees here. We are all come legally. But some other right now, if you don't have paper work to enter, in other words, means you are not legal to come to the U.S. You have to work for your chance because the American policy can be open door or close door. So if you come at the right time, you are welcome to U.S.

A: They have to find the right time.

B: Yeah.

A: If they were illegal, could they send their children to public school to receive education?

B: Yeah, but right now we accept on children living here in U.S.

A: So no matter they are legal or illegal, you still have their children.

B: Nm, we don't care about that. The illegal issue belongs to the INS. They have to do their work. We just work school for education. We have everybody (who) needs help.

A: So every child has chance to receive education, has chance to get their help.

B: Yeah.

A: What do you want your children, not just your own children, all the Vietnamese children, what do you want these children to learn or remember all these history?

B: I think I want my children to remember our fly to the U.S. They don't forget our story to come the U.S. They have to self independent, to have better life. Not forget our

territory from the country we come from. I see many children become very successful because they keep their own identity and eager to learn the new thing, not the. Because the society is very competitive (so) you have to find their own way to learn to become successful. Other wise there will be another disaster ...if you in economic, education you wish them to become.

A: Do you expect your children or other children keep Vietnam culture, or change to be American culture?

B: I think the new generation have chance to choose. I see many minorities still have their own tradition. .. So that's I see some successful story depending on background ...if they fall out to quit... sometimes, that's disaster...In the society, we already have this topic. We have many successful traditional families still very successful. Any culture can be very good. So I think it's very popular to try to educate all children to have our own identity and ... learn the worthy from the new culture abandon the (trash). That's very important to do my work to help the family to be successful in the country.

A: How do you predict the future of the new generation? Will they still be called the refugee?

B: Right now we don't have any more people under the refugee status. They live here right now normally with their family as immigration. It's immigrate. So I count by the waves the Vietnam come to the U.S. The first wave: Refugee; the second wave: the boat people; the third wave: maybe consider the immigration. G.I ... They are allowed to come and home coming up. Political (...) still are allowed to come under political reason. Many of them are allowed family to bring family over here. So... many of them are very successful too. The new wave means only the children who move with families. They have family before the family move. I am still work with the children.

A: Thank you very much.

B: You are welcome.

A: Than for the interview today. I hope the Vietnam Society has more successful story.

B: My pleasures.