

Program Brochure

DEFYING GRAVITY

6th NEUVSA Annual Conference

Drexel University | Philadelphia

April 6-8, 2012



Drexel Vietnamese Student Association

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WELCOME TO

THE 6TH ANNUAL NORTHEAST
UNION OF VIETNAMESE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE

DEFYING GRAVITY

The Northeast Union of Vietnamese Student Association (NEUVSA) is a community-based organization to unite the Vietnamese community in the Northeast region in order to engage our shared culture, to leverage resources for constituent schools, to foster individual professionalism and leadership, and to empower members to advocate social justice and awareness for causes relevant to the Vietnamese community.

The 6th NEUVSA Annual Conference aims to educate the participants, to inspire prospective pathways and to lead a new generation of Vietnamese Americans into a constant yet ever changing world. The Participants shall also be invigorated with ideas, connected with one another and enlightened about Vietnamese American heritage as well as current issues within the community.

A Message From the Conference Chairman

"I would like to take this opportunity to show my deepest appreciation and most sincere joy towards all the attendees who will share this experience with us - NEUVSA 6th Annual Conference: Defying Gravity.

At this conference, we endeavor to bridge different generations, different communities from all over Northeast region. This is where those who came before us pass on the torch of wisdom, inspiration and courage. This is when all of us from different universities connect to one another to empower ourselves, to cultivate resources and to conquer the common obstacles.

I hope after this event, the attendees will be inspired to explore many other prospective pathways to step into the future and be educated with knowledge and skills being well-prepared for the chosen goal. Not ending there, we will also enjoy Vietnamese culture in folk games and cuisine from street foods to authentic dinner as well as the Annual Culture Show: The Timeline.

Last but not least, I hope you will have the best time here in Drexel University. I am looking forward to welcoming you personally to our conference.

Sincerely,
Lan Nguyen"

SCHEDULE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers wear a T-shirt with the conference logo and a purple conference badge will assist you if you need help during the conference. Also, one Information Desk will operate during the conference. It is located at the entrance inside the main building of the Drexel University

CONFERENCE BADGES

Attendees and guests are requested to retain their badges at all times in order to be able to enter the conference and culture show venues

There are four different color badges:

- White for attendees •
- Purple for volunteers/organizers •
- Red for speakers •
- Blue for guest •

INTERNET ACCESS

Inside the conference venues a wireless free internet connection called Drexelguest is available without login information. Only an email address is required to be able to access Internet.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY APRIL 6, 2012
LOCATION: ARMORY BUILDING

6:00 - 7:00pm

Check-in Registration/Food Kiosks

7:00 - 8:00pm

Traditional Games Competition

8:00 - 8:30pm

Opening Ceremony

8:30 - 9:30pm

Games Competition Resumes

9:30pm - CLOSE

Announcement of the winner for the Food Kiosks

SATURDAY APRIL 7, 2012
LOCATION: AUDITORIUM

9:00 - 10:00am

Breakfast

10:00 - 11:00am

Icebreakers

11:00 - 11:45am

Introduction

11:45 - 12:30pm

Keynote Speaker: Ethan Nguyen

12:45 - 1:30pm

Workshop Session 1*

1:30 - 1:45pm

Lunch

1:45 - 2:30pm

Workshop Session 2*

2:45 - 3:30pm

Keynote Speaker: Le-Quyen Vu

3:30 - 4:00pm

Networking Session

5:30 - 7:00pm

Dinner

7:00 - 10:00pm

Culture Show

WORKSHOPS

The Marshmallow Challenge

By: Annie Nguyen

Room: Randell 327

The Marshmallow Challenge is a remarkably fun and instructive design exercise that encourages teams to experience simple but profound lessons in collaboration, innovation and creativity.

Enculturation of Vietnamese community in America

By: Austin Argentieri

Room: Curtis 353

This workshop will exhibit some preliminary ethnographic work done in Vietnamese businesses in South Philadelphia and at the Chùa Giác Lâm Buddhist Temple in Lansdowne, PA. Through the interwoven film "Between Rivers" and discussion, we will discuss the transformation of Vietnamese Buddhism and religion in America, and the enculturation that these contemporary examples exhibit amongst Vietnamese-Americans.

Entrepreneurship in Volunteer Efforts

By: Chi Nguyen

Room: Randell 343

In this workshop session, Chi Nguyen will share with you her personal story of how volunteering has changed her life. From simply believing in "good karma", Chi has become a community enthusiast. Chi will demonstrate how volunteering can nurture leadership skills. She will also share the lessons that she has learned throughout 9 years of involving in community services and the do's and don'ts when starting your own charity.

Internship 102

By: Hoang-Oanh Nguyen

Room: Randell 329

A discussion about how to get the internships that you want. We will go through the job search process with tips on writing your resume, preparing for interviews, and follow-up actions. A question and answer section will follow the discussion to help with direction on solving challenges that you may see. Also, we would like to learn from you so bring your success story.

Journey Home: Discussing Vietnamese/American Identities (Interactive Workshop)

By: Nancy Nguyen

Room: Curtis 352A

This workshop will connect one's personal history as a 2nd or 1.5 generation Vietnamese American with Vietnamese history. Workshop will provide a space to explore personal conflicts as it relates to societal movements. Workshop will be a safe space and be interactive. Be prepared to talk!

Interview Mock Trial

By: Hoang-Oanh Nguyen

Room: Randell 329

Following the theme of career development, this interview workshop will help you to present your best face forward in a fun way. We will have a brief discussion about interview process. Then prepare to join our activities/games that are aimed at bringing out your confidence. Which games? It's a secret!

LGBT within Vietnamese American community

By: Hotpot!

Room: Curtis 353A

Hotpot! will lead participants through explorations of what it means to be Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Trans, and Gender-non-conforming/Gender Queer especially in multiple contexts of being Vietnamese American and/or Asian American in the mainland United States. Conversations will also include how to be a straight ally to LGBTQ* people and the range of ways student activism on college campuses can work more in coalition with different activist groups. A representative from National Queer Asian American Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) will also be present to share local and national resources from our Queer Asian American social movement.*

THE FORUM

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES : NON - PROFIT ORGANIZATION

BY: DR NGO THANH NHAN

This forum will focus on one of the basic means used by other U.S. communities to financially help advocate for and advance their causes— not-for-profit corporation status. Basically, a nonprofit corporation, under the IRS 501(c) designation, produces “public goods” and does not give its surplus revenues to shareholders, but rather uses them to grow the organization. Having tax exempt status allows the Vietnamese community activists to form organizations which can receive donations from people, who in turn, will receive a donation credit on their taxes. It ensures that all the money raised can be used to help our community since the tax exempt organization is itself exempt from paying taxes. Tax exempt status is a tool to strengthen Vietnamese American community organizing and advocacy.



Ph.D. Vietnamese linguistics, a visiting scholar at the New York University Linguistic String Project, and a fellow at Temple University Center for Vietnamese Philosophy, Culture & Society on the ancient Vietnamese Nôm studies.. He is involved in a variety of non-profit organizations, including the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign and the Institute for Vietnamese Culture & Society. Nhan was a founding member of Peeling the Banana, a New York

Asian American performing arts troupe . He has performed in a variety of films, TV ads and stage plays. He was also a founding vice-president of the Vietnamese Nôm Preservation Foundation and performed the poetry of Hồ Xuân Hương with đàn tranh. Nhan also writes and performs his own songs, poetry and spoken words. He is also a musician, playing and teaching đàn tranh (a Vietnamese 16-string zither) in performances of classical and folk music and with the Billy Bang jazz band. Nhan is a teacher of the Đàn Tranh Ensemble at Folk Arts - Cultural Treasures Charter School in Chinatown, Philadelphia, since 2009.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

ETHAN NGUYEN



A health researcher at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on utilizing community networks and social media to improve health care access for immigrant and minority populations. Awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship in 2006, he has conducted ethnographic research work among refugee communities in Europe and Australia, with academic presentations in Prague, Paris, and Sydney. Most recently, Ethan completed work on a 3 year project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that engaged limited-English-proficient immigrant elders in sharing their experiences of navigating the health care system. Ethan has been invited to give lectures on his research at educational institutions such as Yale University, University of Florida, Bryn Mawr College and the University of Pennsylvania. His most recent publications appeared in the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health and the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved. Ethan serves on multiple community organizations including the American Cancer Society Asian Advisory Board and the Hepatitis B Foundation HBV Task Force. He is appointed by Mayor Nutter to serve on the Mayor's Advisory Board for the Mayor's Office of Community Services. Ethan is a graduate of Vassar College and currently lives in Philadelphia.

LE-QUYEN VU

Le-Quyen Vu is the Executive Director of the Indochinese American Council. She came to the US in 1984 as a boat refugee and a first generation immigrant. She is an advocate for equal educational opportunities for youth and adults in Philadelphia. She has been involved in public education and workforce education for more than 25 years. She believes that education is the foundation for economic advancement and overcoming obstacles in life. She is a strong voice for Philadelphia providers and immigrant communities at the state and local governments. She has helped develop standards for youth development and workforce education that are currently implemented across the City of Philadelphia. She is one of the founding members of the Multi-Cultural Academy Charter School.



WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

ANNIE HUYNH



Director of Member Services at NAAAP Philadelphia, one of the fastest growing Asian American professional organizations in the Greater Philadelphia area. She holds a Master of Education from Temple University and is an educator at the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School, specializing in literacy, social studies, and teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL).

A cultural anthropology and religion scholar. His research interests lie in the realms of music, ritual, socialization, and beliefs about the ineffable. He is currently conducting fieldwork in the greater Philadelphia area investigating religion amongst the Vietnamese population, and is working in tandem with researchers at the Center for Vietnamese Philosophy, Culture, and Society on a larger ethnographic film concerning the Vietnamese community in Philadelphia and it's mark on the artistic, cultural, and social diversity of the city.



AUSTIN ARGENTIERI

CHI NGUYEN



Born and raised in Vietnam. Graduated from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Chi is now working as a Construction Cost Consultant at Davis Langdon in San Francisco. Since her days at Drexel, she took on various leadership roles including Treasurer of Asian Student Association, Vice President of American Society of Heating and Refrigerant Engineers (ASHRAE). After graduation, she continues her passion for community services by volunteering with number of non-profit organizations both in the U.S. and Vietnam namely ICON Philadelphia, Architecture for Humanity, Vietnam Green Building Council, VietDreams, and OneVietnam Network. Her latest accomplishment is beCause Vietnam project. Together with four other friends and a supportive network including Drexel VSA, beCause Vietnam successfully raised nearly \$14,000 for underprivileged communities, children with disabilities, and orphans throughout Vietnam.

HOANG-OANH NGUYEN



Tax Consultant in the International Tax Services group at Deloitte. Her family immigrated to the U.S. in the Summer of 2007. In 2010, she completed her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Drexel University with dual concentration in Accounting and Finance. Among the other four scholarship winners all over the U.S., Hoang was recognized at the NAAAP National Convention in Denver, Colorado in 2009 for her excellence in school and extracurricular activities. She also served as President and Vice President of Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Honor Society for academically successful Business students during her time at Drexel University. In addition to involvement with Beta Gamma Sigma, she joined multiple associations and groups in an effort to build her confidence and expand her network. Her interest in a career in Tax started after taking the first Tax course and it has grown tremendously after her coop at Deloitte Tax in Philadelphia, she passed her CPA examination in 2011 and is attending Villanova University's Master of Taxation program. At work, she is passionate about delivering the best quality to clients. Her strengths are the ability to learn and adapt to the changing environment. Besides working hard for career and intellectual advancement, she gives back to the society by attending multiple conferences and workshops at Drexel University as guest speakers and panelists. Through these events, she shares her experiences and gives advices to current students, especially, Vietnamese students, with the hope that they would succeed and become a strong proud group of working professionals.

HOTPOT!



hotpot!

A Philadelphia-area gathering working to build community for queer, lesbian, and bisexual Asian and Pacific Islander women, trans*, gender variant and gender queer/non-conforming identified people through social gatherings, political action and good food.

NANCY NGUYEN



Branch Manager of BPSOS-Delaware Valley the local, community-based branch office of the largest national Vietnamese organization in the US. Ms. Nguyen received her B.A. at Oberlin College in History and Creative writing and her M.A. at University of Wisconsin-Madison in 11 Southeast Asian Studies. For the past five years, Ms. Nguyen has had an array of experiences working and volunteering in non-profits in Mexico, Vietnam and the US that work to end violence in communities, especially against women and young people. She is deeply passionate about community organizing as the key method to ending violence across communities. She is currently based in Philadelphia and working with immigrant communities there and in South Jersey.

MY-PHUONG LY

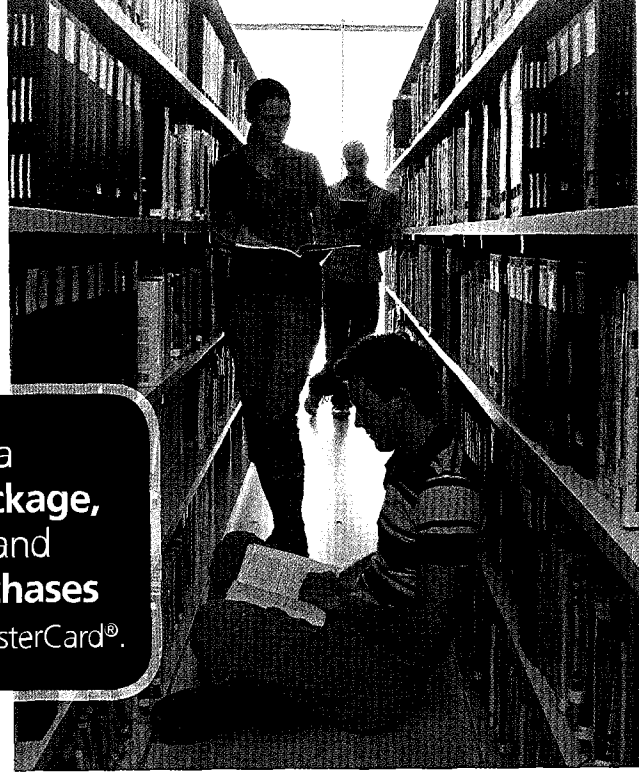


My-Phuong Ly is currently a working media associate at Starcom Worldwide and graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign with a degree in finance and minor in Asian American Studies. Starting at a young age, she noticed that her phenotype played a huge role with stereotypes in school and expectations of her elsewhere. Disgruntled and also struggling with her bicultural identity, My-Phuong searched for answers throughout high school and college. She started to actively participate in Asian American awareness and solidarity events in college and continued to contribute at the local, regional, and continental level. Understanding the importance of continued involvement, she tries to leverage her experiences to give back to the Vietnamese American youth.

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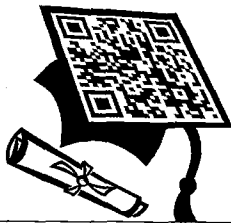
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