

"The Exchange." Nguyen Quang Phuc, date unknown.

and other material documenting the experiences of refugees and immigrants who left Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam after 1975.



"Two adults and three children walk down the stairs from their temporary housing quarters." Fort Chaffee Photograph Collection of Vietnamese and Cambodian Refugees.

For the full exhibit checklist with annotations, online exhibits, and past exhibits, please see:

exhibits.lib.uci.edu.

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An internationally recognized research collection, the Southeast Asian Archive collects organization and personal archives, books, serials,

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Hope of Freedom



Painting by Trinh Quoc Lap, Project Ngoc Records, UCI Libraries Southeast Asian Archive

Project Ngoc's Decade of Dedication

APRIL 2012 - OCTOBER 2012
MURIEL ANSLEY REYNOLDS EXHIBIT GALLERY

Welcome to the UC Irvine Libraries' Spring 2012 exhibit, *Hope of Freedom: Project Ngoc's Decade of Dedication*. This inspiring exhibit chronicles the history and wide-reaching impact of Project Ngoc (Project Pearl), a UCI student-led humanitarian organization whose decade of activism raised awareness and support for the plight of Vietnamese refugees detained in camps in Asia after the Vietnam War. Project Ngoc donated their rich materials to the Libraries' internationally recognized Southeast Asian Archive in the Department of Special Collections & Archives, where they are available for scholarly research. The

exhibit is curated by Special Collections & Archives staff.



Manuel Gómez.

We are honored to have Manuel Gómez, Ph.D., UCI Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Student Affairs and 2011 UCI Medalist as the featured speaker for our exhibit opening on April 24.

I hope you enjoy the exhibit and return to view others in the future.

Lorelei Tanji
Interim University Librarian



"Commemorating Those Who Die on Their Way to Freedom." Artist unknown, date unknown.

they organized protests, vigils, art exhibits, concerts, and conferences. These ambitious students had a tremendous impact at home and abroad. Project Ngoc disbanded in 1997, after most Vietnamese refugees had been resettled or repatriated.

This exhibit celebrates

the power of student activism while also remembering the many tragedies of the Southeast Asian refugee crisis. Drawing deeply from the Project Ngoc Records in the Libraries Southeast Asian Archive, the exhibit includes



Photograph documenting refugee camp conditions, 1987-1991.

After the fall of Saigon in 1975, over two million Southeast Asians fled their home countries.

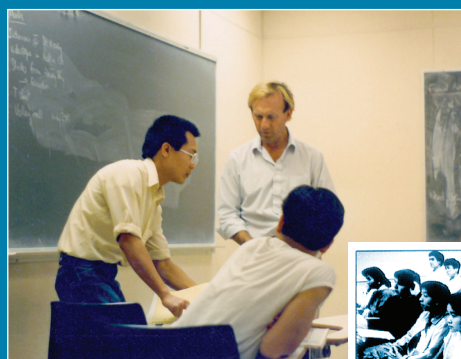


"Fleeing Vietnamese are rescued in the South China Sea by a Médecins du Monde rescue boat." *Forced Out: The Agony of the Refugee in Our Time*. Carole Kismaric. New York, NY: Random House, 1989.

While many successfully resettled in new countries, many others perished at sea or lingered for years in refugee camps and detention centers yearning for

freedom. Dedicated UCI students organized Project Ngoc to relieve their suffering.

Initiated as a class in 1987 by UCI graduate student Tom Wilson, Project Ngoc raised awareness about the plight of Southeast Asian refugees and provided direct relief to refugees detained in camps. Project Ngoc raised money



Photograph of Thomas Wilson and Professor John Liu in the Vietnamese Refugee Experience Course. Spring 1987.

to send students to work as teachers, counselors,

and translators in refugee camps in Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Thailand, and to lobby in Washington, D.C. on behalf of Southeast Asian refugees. In Orange County,



Members of graduate student Tom Wilson's class at UC Irvine earn college credit while they become political activists on behalf of Vietnamese refugees.

New UCI Class Seeks Help for Refugees

A new class, designed to let students earn college credit while becoming political activists on behalf of Vietnamese refugees, started at UC Irvine this quarter. The class, initiated by UCI graduate student Tom Wilson, was inspired by the Santa Ana-based Project Deliverance and the San Diego-based Boat People SOS Committee, two groups seeking to help people who flee the Communist regime in Vietnam.

The purpose of the class, Wilson said, is to mobilize support for people who escape Vietnam only to be victimized by Thai pirates, warring factions in Kampuchea and Thailand, and a system that often keeps refugees trapped in Southeast Asian camps for years. Wilson, a former elementary school teacher who is working on a master's degree in mathematics but may switch to public health studies, said he sought faculty support

for the class because of his increasing awareness of Vietnamese refugees' problems. For years, he said, close Vietnamese friends have told him harrowing stories about their escape from Vietnam. I started realizing that some of the most important people in my life could have been victims of the pirates or sold into prostitution," he said. John Liu, a UCI assistant professor of comparative culture, said he authorized a few students majoring in social sciences to take part in the new class because it will allow them to "become more active in their communities" by learning about the experiences of Vietnamese refugees in transit from Vietnam to other areas of Southeast Asia. His students will also write academic papers on what they learn, Liu said. Wilson originally believed he had faculty support for the class as an independent-study biology course. More than 90 students tried to enroll through the biology department.

"New UCI Class Seeks Help for Refugees." By Penelope Moffet, *Los Angeles Times*, April 24, 1987.



"A Love Between a Mother and Her Child." Nguyen Quang Phuc, date unknown.

photographs, correspondence, clippings, flyers, and reproductions of the powerful paintings that Project Ngoc members collected from refugee artists detained in camps in Hong Kong and Thailand.