



Vietnamese Culture and Science Association

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VCSA Times

2006

Message from the President



Greetings,

On behalf of VCSA, I would like to send our best wishes to you and family for a wonderful Holiday season. Believe it or not, year of 2006 has come to an end and it's time to celebrate all the achievements and successes that VCSA has accomplished in the past twelve years.

In this issue, we would like to review some major highlights of activities and programs that VCSA has launched in 2006, including the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon program in Houston, Len Duong Camp US in Washington DC, and the first Len Duong Canada camp in Ontario, Canada. We would not have been able to deliver all of these great programs without the tireless dedication of thousands of hours from VCSA members and volunteers. We truly appreciate your involvement and your support.

The Board of Directors has accomplished the great task of producing the very first VCSA Strategic Plan and work with the Executive Board to implement some key strategic programs for Houston chapter.

I also would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all sponsors, supporters, members and volunteers who have helped to make all of our programs possible. Your continual support is a wonderful source of encouragement for all of us at the Executive Board. We are excited for year 2007.

Sincerely,

Hung Le
(President)



National Executive Board and Board of Directors Meeting in April 2006

(left to right 2nd row: Phong Pham, Tuongvu Nguyen, Anh Tran, Mieu Vu, Duc Hoang; 1st row: Jerry Dao, Anhlan Nguyen, Camvan Nguyen, Dr. Vu Pham (consultant), An Huynh, Truong Nong, Maxwell Vo, Hung Le)

Camp Len Duong 2006 - Washington D.C

VCSA Ninth Annual National Youth Leadership Development Camp - Len Duong Camp 2006 at Triangle, Virginia.

VCSA Len Duong Camp this year was attended by more than 200 campers coming from 21 states in the US and Canada during the Memorial Weekend of May 2006. Our host for this year event was our VCSA DC Chapter with the staff of more than 50 members.

This was the first time VCSA brought the camp to the Washington DC Metropolitan area. The camp site was located at a scenic national state park, 30 miles from Washington, DC.



ExxonMobil Volunteers team:

(left to right: Ms. Thuy Anh Nguyen, Mr. Moi Nguyen, Ms. Linda Nguyen, Ms. Phuong Bui, Ms. Phuc Nguyen)



VCSA Len Duong 2006 Sponsors and Guest Speakers:

(left to right: Ms. Duy-Loan Le, Mr. Truong Tran, Dr. Charles Cuong Nguyen, Mr. Hau Thai-Tang, Mr. Jeff Watkins, Dr. Quan Cao, Dr. Vu Pham)

Len Duong Camp Canada 2006



The very first camp Len Duong Canada was held during the Canada Day long weekend (June 30 - July 3, 2006) at Crief Hill Community - Pushline, Ontario, Canada. There were 130 campers from 5 provinces in Canada joining the camp.

Camp Len Duong Canada was co-hosted by the newly established VCSA Toronto Chapter and the Vietnamese Association of Toronto. The Camp was coordinated by a team of 25 staff from Canada including seven VCSA members coming from the U.S.



Len Duong Canada Camp Counselors

Partnership with Houston Independent School District

Vietnamese American Career Day - April 29, 2006

Sharpstown High School

In 2006, VCSA has established a great partnership with the Houston Independent School District (HISD) with the two events: Vietnamese American Career Day held on April 29 and the Houston Link-Up Conference hosted by HISD and several other community organizations across Houston. The Vietnamese American Career Day was a great success with 400 students and parents from HISD middle schools and high schools. VCSA helped to facilitate some workshops for Vietnamese parents at the Houston Link-Up Conference, held on May 13, 2006 at George Brown Convention Center.



Houston Link-Up Conference

George R. Brown Convention Center, May 13, 2006



After School Tutorial Program in Houston



Tutoring program expanded from two days in the Southwest to four days in both the Southwest and the Southeast. As a result, we increased the number of students served from about 50 to over 200 – an improvement of over 400%!

This was made possible by the leadership of Cam Tu Pham (Southwest Tutoring Coordinator) and Bao Ngan Nguyen (Southeast Tutoring Coordinator) and the 10+ tutors we had in the program. Huy Pham, the Chairman of Youth Programs at VCSA Houston oversees the program.

If you are interested in tutoring or would like more information about the program itself, please contact the VCSA center at 281-933-8118.



Vietnamese Language Class

To address the Vietnamese language learning needs from members and community, VCSA organized a twelve-week Vietnamese Intermediate Class from September to November 2006 at VCSA Center. The class was taught by Mr. Truong Nong, and there were 16 students attending the class.

VCSA Houston Financial Literacy Program

VCSA Houston Chapter is very pleased to continue the partnership with Washington Mutual for the second year. In this partnership, VCSA Houston Chapter works with Washington Mutual to provide a series of financial literacy workshops, radio talk shows, financial educational events to serve the local Houston communities and vicinities.

Ms. Thanh Luu, Vice-President of Houston Chapter, is in charge of this program and has been delivering a series of monthly talk show on Saigon Houston Radio 900AM and during the summer of 2006, VCSA has partnered with other community organizations to deliver one Home Buyer Festival in May and one Home Buyer Mortgage Seminar on July 8, 2006.

When the school begins in the spring, VCSA will implement the after-school financial literacy program and also the School Saving program coordinated by both VCSA and Washington Mutual employees.



Corporate Partnership - Shell Oil Company

The Shell Oil Company has established a great partnership with VCSA through not only the Leadership Development Program, but also through other community service projects. The Shell Global Solutions (US) Inc. has donated fifteen (15) laptops to VCSA to help us deliver computer mobile classes for the low-income families in the Alief Neighborhood as well as other Houston areas. Great thanks to the leadership of Tamie Hoang and the Shell employees team.



*Shell
Leadership
Workshop on
Career
Development
at LD Camp
2005*



Financial Tax Filing Services

Since 2000, VCSA has delivered free tax filing services annually to low-income families in the Vietnamese community. This service was provided by tax filing professionals who volunteered their time to serve the community. The team was led by Mr. Hop Pham, our Treasurer and also a certified State Auditor.

VCSA Houston 10th Annual Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon

The Houston's Tenth Annual Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon held on August 6, 2006 at Kim Son Ballroom - 1603 St. Emanuel, was a huge success.

We had a packed audience of more than 600 guests. The event honored 31 Vietnamese-American students (the most ever!) who graduated Valedictorians or Salutatorians from more than 55 local high schools in Houston and Vicinity.

The organizing committee led by Hoang Bach Hy (Honoree of 2005) and Phan Thi Dong Xuyen (Honoree of 2004), consisting of approximately 25 past honorees and VCSA members, has successfully delivered the project.



Mr. Hung Le received Recognition from Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee



Christine Tran - recipient of Thuy Nguyen's scholarship



Kathleen Nguyen Vera Tran's scholarship recipient



Fashion Show by past honorees



Youth Tobacco Prevention Summit

This is the third year that VCSA Houston partnered with the Houston's Museum of Natural Science to organize the annual Youth Tobacco Prevention Summit on Sunday July 10, 2006 for Asian youth in the age range 7-16. The event was participated by 250 kids and we also had a team of 90 volunteers from more than 10 community organizations and local universities. A great round of applause to the coordinators: Diana Banh and Dieu-Huong Ho.



Kick Butt Day Poster Contest—Partnership with Alief ISD

Jessica Nguyen and Diana Banh, the two project coordinators for the Tobacco Prevention program has organized successfully a “Kick Butt Day” poster contest with more than 200 contestants from the five elementary and middle schools: Youth Blood Intermediate, Chinese Community Center After school classes, Miller Intermediate, Ollie Middle School, O'Donnell Middle

School. All of these schools are located in the Alief ISD area. VCSA established a great partnership with Alief ISD through this program. The schools with most participation is Chinese Community Center and the two runner up schools (each received an ice-cream party) were Young Blood Intermediate and Miller Intermediate. Congrats to Diana and Jessica.

Coffee Night

VCSA–Houston has two Coffee Night events in 2006, the first one was held on March 11 at the VCSA Center with special performance from the “Quan Ho Bac Ninh” group, a very special folk song style singing group. The event was attended by more than 100 members and friends. Project coordinator was Khanh Thu Phan.

The second Coffee Night was held on Nov 3rd at Pho Thai Binh Duong and was attended by more than 60 members and friends. Project co-coordinators were Bao Ngan Nguyen and Loc Tran. This was the first time the young members are in charge of the Coffee Night program.



Mid-Autumn Festival-Houston

Children's Museum of Houston—Oct 7, 2006

More than 100 volunteers were involved in the implementation of the Houston Mid-Autumn Festival organized by VCSA Houston in partnership with the Children's Museum of Houston. The Museum had thousands of visitors and the program was participated by more than 500 Asian children and parents. Besides VCSA, there were several other VSA's at local universities (U. of H, HBU, St. Thomas University, etc.) volunteered at the event. The program was led by Christine Luong. Congratulations to Christine Luong and the organizing team for a job well done.



Health Promotion Program



VCSA Health Promotion Team under the leadership of Dr. Rick Ngo delivered a series of three Cancer Prevention and Health Promotion Workshops in year 2006.

VCSA would like to acknowledge Dr. Tuong-Vi Ho (from MD Anderson Cancer Center), Dr. Lan Trinh (Houston Hospital District), Dr. Phan Gia Quang, and Dr. Ho Ngoc Tram for their participation in the talk shows as well as workshops during the year of 2006.

Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter Activities



DFW VVDV 2006 program

The Dallas Fort Worth Chapter organized successfully the 6th **Annual Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon** program in July 2006 to honor 18 local Valedictorians and Salutatorians. The program also honored local graduates from colleges and universities. The event was packed of guests and delivered very successfully. Congratulations to the DFW team for a job well done on the VVDV event!

DFW Mid-Autumn Festival

Apart from the Tet Festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival is the most impressive event for the Vietnamese, particularly the children. There is no other event in the year other than this festival that provides them with as much entertainment, toys, cakes, candies, and fruit. In its third year of celebrating the event in DFW area, the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association-DFW chapter, has organized the Mid-Autumn Moon festival in Arlington on October 7th, 2006. Beside the traditional dragon dance, the festival also handed out free battery-operated lanterns and balloons, and featured a variety of special cultural activities such as traditional costume contest, young talent competition, lantern contest, martial art demonstration, lantern procession, arts and crafts booths, and food to festival participants. The participation of many talented members from various young organizations such as Kids Help Kids, Vietnamese Student Association at UTA, Giang Viet Youth, Vovinam Martial Art school, VAS, and adult volunteers, has made the festival a very successful and joyful event. The event has attracted more than 1200 children and their parents.



San Diego Chapter Activities

Thu Hoai Cam concert was held on October 28, 2006 in San Diego. The event featured Nguyen Dat (guitarists), Tuan Ngoc, Thai Thao, and many local performers. The purpose of the concert was to report the humanitarian mission by Ms. Vivian Nguyen in Vietnam and present the new Executive Board of San Diego Chapter. Ms. Minh Hang Nguyen is now the president of the San Diego Chapter.

The Chapter also has a Tha Tho game event held at Tet Festival in San Diego, California.



Thu Hoai Cam Concert - San Diego



Tha Tho Game at Tet Festival - San Diego



Beautiful ladies from VCSA- San Diego Chapter

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would like to acknowledge the contribution and hard work of the VCSA-Houston Executive Board and staff in 2006

VCSA Houston Executive Board

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Healthcare:	Rick Ngo, MD
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Performing Arts:	Tan M. Nguyen
Membership:	Tamie Hoang
Science & Tech.:	Hung Tran
Social Programs:	Hoa Dang
Center Admin.:	Duc Tran

VCSA Staff

Philip Hiep Nguyen: Katrina Aid Case Manager
 Bao Ngan Nguyen: Tutorial Program Coord. - Southeast
 Cam Tu Tran Pham: Tutorial Program Coord.- Southwest
 Diana Banh, Jessica Nguyen: Tobacco Prevention Coord.
 Thien Cao: Communication specialist.

**Vietnamese Culture and
Science Association**

4615 Belle Park
Houston, TX 77072

Phone: 281-933-8118

Fax: 281-933-8187

E-mail: vkhk@vkhkvn.org

**Leadership
Education
Culture
Excellence
Volunteerism**

www.vkhkvn.org



The Vietnamese Culture and Science Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1990. It has over 500 members; a majority of which is young Vietnamese American professionals.

MISSION STATEMENT

VCSA promotes excellence in education, leadership and skills development through culture and science. Our organization encourages multi-generational and cross-cultural collaborations. We foster civic participation in the mainstream and Vietnamese America.

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