



**A COUNTRY  
STAYS ALIVE  
WHEN ITS  
CULTURE IS  
ALIVE.**

- **SACEI Newsletter** updates you on the latest news about Vietnamese-America.
- It serves as a link between **SACEI** members and those who are interested in the Vietnamese or Vietnamese-American culture.

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## Editorial Note: Singer Viet Khang

Who is he? No one has heard of this song writer until December 2011 when he landed in jail for having written the song "Who are You?"

A thirtyish year-old musician from Vietnam dared to ask Hanoi a few simple questions. Who are you? Why do you jail me for professing my love for Vietnam that has suffered so much for so long? I cannot sit still when my country is collapsing... The song goes on.

These lyrical words galvanized world's opinion causing some Viet Kieu to write a petition signed by more than 56,000 people asking the White House to stop expanding trade with Vietnam at the expense of human rights.

Viet Khang turned out to be Vietnam's newest and suddenly famous troubadour, a modern-day freedom fighter. Hanoi can no longer trample on people's rights because even if Viet Khang, is silenced, others will rise.

<http://www.sacei07.org/freedomfighters.jsp>

As the petition drive has gathered more than 30,000 signatures in less than 30 days, the White House has indicated that President Obama and the Congress will meet with the delegation of Vietnamese-Americans respectively on March 5 and 6, 2012.





**FOURTH ANNUAL SACEI CONFERENCE**  
**THE SECOND REPUBLIC: 1967-1975**  
 August 25, 2012 – McLean, VA



### CALL FOR PAPERS

**SACEI** plans to revisit the years of the Second Republic not only from the war aspect, but also from the economic, cultural, and historic points of view. The Second Republic faced its most bloody and violent period in 1968 (Tet Mau Than), 1972 (Summer Eastern Offensive) and 1975 (Total Offensive) when Hanoi launched its blatant invasions into South Vietnam, a far cry from a "people's revolution."

While the South Vietnamese struggled and suffered militarily, economically, and socially, in Washington DC the doves fought against the hawks about the conduct of the war and internationally, Moscow, Peking, and Washington poured armaments into the battlefields.

SACEI (Saigon Arts, Culture, & Education Institute)—a non-profit organization—invites you to share your experiences and knowledge about this period with its audience.

Please submit a one-page abstract to [sacei007@yahoo.com](mailto:sacei007@yahoo.com).

The deadline is June 15, 2012.

Web: [www.sacei07.org](http://www.sacei07.org)

Nominations for the **2012 SACEI PERSON OF THE YEAR** are also accepted.



## Dr. Philipp Rösler : Vice Chancellor of Germany



Dr. Philipp Rösler

**Philipp Rösler** is a Vietnamese-born German politician, who, since 2011, has been the Federal Minister of Economics and Technology and the Vice Chancellor. He is the Chairman of the liberal Free Democratic Party (since 2011).

Born in 1973 in Khanh Hung, Ba Xuyen Province, South Vietnam, he was adopted from a Saigon orphanage by a German couple who brought him to Germany at the age of nine months. He grew up in Hamburg, graduated from high school in 1992 and became a com-

bat medic in the German Federal Defense Force before obtaining an MD degree in 2002. He is married to Wiebke Roesler, also a physician.

He has been a member of the FDP and its political youth organization, the Young Liberals, since 1992. He rapidly rose through the ranks of the FDP and became the Federal Minister of Health in October 2009, the Federal Minister of Economics and Technology on 12 May 2011 and the Vice-Chancellor of Germany on 16 May 2011.

## Dr. Lan Cao: Law Professor & Novelist



**Lan Cao** is the author of the 1997 novel *Monkey Bridge*, co-author of *Everything You Need to Know about Vietnamese-Americans* (1996) and is

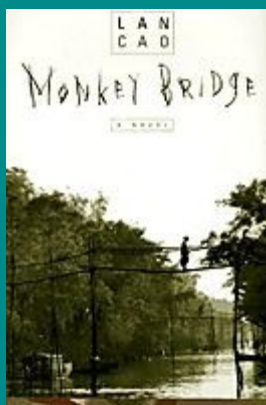
the Boyd Fellow and Professor of law at the William and Mary College in Virginia. As a jurist and teacher, she specializes in international law, trade, and development. Cao was born in Vietnam and experienced

the Vietnam War as a civilian. She moved to the US when she was 13. She received her B.A. in political science from Mount Holyoke College in 1983 and her J.D. from the Yale University law school.

*Monkey Bridge* is the semi-autobiographical story of a mother and daughter who leave Vietnam to come to the United States. It is considered to be "the first novel by a Vietnamese-American about the war experience and its aftermath".

Available on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/Monkey-Bridge-Lan-Cao/dp/0140263616/>



Monkey Bridge

*Not only is this Lan's first novel, it is one of the finest dramatizations of the experiences of Vietnamese refugees in the U.S. Lan herself was airlifted out of Saigon in 1975, and she has transformed her prismatic memories into a stunning and powerful drama. The title refers to the tenuous bamboo bridges that sway above the rivers of the verdant Vietnamese countryside, a resonant symbol of the fragility of links between people and nations, the past and the future. As Lan's young heroine, Mai Nguyen, learns over the course of her war-torn childhood and abrupt relocation to Farmington, Connecticut, even the strongest connections to home and loved ones can break under the weight of events greater than ourselves.*



## Lee Nguyen: Soccer Player

**Lee Nguyen** (born October 7, 1986) is an American soccer midfielder who is signed to Major League Soccer club Vancouver Whitecaps FC.

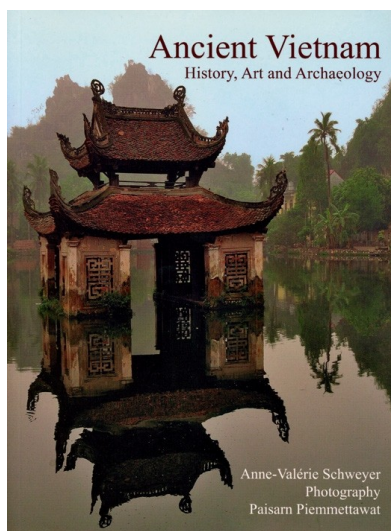
Nguyen grew up in Dallas and played for Dallas Texans, one of the nation's elite youth teams. Nguyen was coached by club founder Hassan Nazari and later David Hudgell in his senior year won several tournaments with the team.

A winger with creative dribbling skills, he has represented the United States national team as a member of its youth squads. He was the only high school player to be named in the U.S. squad for the 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship and was named the 2004–05 Gatorade National Boy Soccer Player of the Year.

He played one year at Indiana before pursuing a professional contract overseas after his freshman year.



## Ancient Vietnam: Anne-Valéry Schweyer



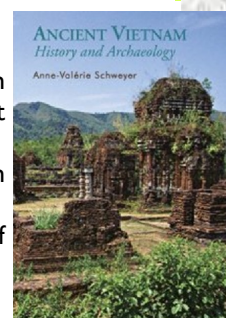
This book firstly presents the history of Vietnam from the 6th to 15th centuries, highlighting the clashes between the two major civilizations (Viet and Cham) which are the foundation of modern Vietnam.

The second part will deal with the archaeology of the Cham sites which dotted the central Vietnamese landscape from Hue to Phan Thiet.

The third part deals with the Viet civilization: various religions, history of Viet art, and ancient sites that radiate out of the capital.

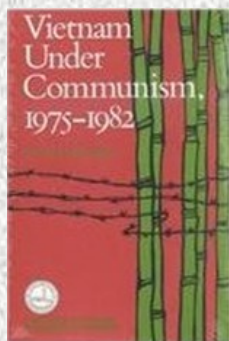
Available on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/Ancient-Vietnam-Archaeology-Anne-Valerie-Schweyer/dp/9749863755>



## Vietnam Under Communism 1975-1982:

Nguyen Van Canh



Based on his own experiences, extensive use of primary and secondary sources, and interviews with Vietnamese refugees who lived under the new order, Nguyen Van Canh analyzes the contemporary political and administrative structure of Vietnam and its leaders, culture, education, economy, and foreign policy. Several chapters are devoted to the apparatus of repression - what the author

calls Vietnam's bamboo gulag, the "re-education" camps that have swallowed up most of the leadership strata of South Vietnam. An important section details the fate of religious believers and churches since 1975.

## The Vietnamese American 1.5 Generation:

Sucheng Chan

Introducing this collection of personal narratives, renowned author Sucheng Chan presents a history of Vietnam that enables readers to understand the larger historical, social, and political contexts within which the refugee exodus occurred between 1975 and 1997. The heart of the book consists of vivid personal testimonies written by members of the 1.5 generation of Vietnamese Americans when they were students at various campuses of the University of California. As testaments to the strength of human beings who persevere against severe odds in horrifying circumstances, the stories are gripping and inspiring.

