

## Theme

30 years had passed since the fall of Sai Gon. Hundreds of thousands fled the mother land. We scattered all over the world. It's been 30 years in America, "**Who Am I? Toi la` nguoi M~y hay la` nguoi Vie^t Nam**" is the theme of the **2005 VIA-1 Conference**. Together, we will examine the identity of Viet Nameese Americans, the contributions we have made, and the future of our community.

A historical snap shot (1975-2005) of Viet Nameese American will be presented. Recognition will be paid to those who helped build and sustain the many Viet Nameese communities through out the U.S. We will look at our present political representation, and how it affects the quality of life for Viet Nameese Americans. There will be a closer examination of the interactions between the Viet Nameese community and other Asian American communities. It is also important to understand how the image of Viet Nameese American has changed and will continue to change. And finally, the return to the mother land: making peace.

From these main ideas, there will be **workshops** with the following topics:

- 1) The Real History of Viet Nam, the "2000" Years
- 2) How Did We End Up Here?
- 3) Community Service
- 4) Politics, Power and Consequences
- 5) Amerisian, All Under Heaven
- 6) The Young and the Restless
- 7) Where Are We Going?
- 8) NAVSA, the Ultimate Dream

Other **workshops**:

- 1) Stories of the "Boat People"
- 2) Basic Viet Nameese (language and literature)
- 3) Got Pho? The Secret Formula (cooking workshop)
- 4) Viet Nameese Non-profit Organizations, Support and Volunteering
- 5) Viet Nameese Music and Arts
- 6) Traveling in Viet Nam
- 7) Following Your Dream, the Career of Choice
- 8) Where Is My Ao Da`i? The "GAP" and the Chuoi Republic Revolution
- 9) Not Just the White Boy Next Door: Asian American Interacial Marriages
- 10) Professionalism: the Necessary Tools for Success
- 11) Crème de la crème: Breaking the Glass Ceiling and Reaching for the Top

**Location:** Marquette University, Milwaukee Wisconsin

**Dates:** March 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> or April 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> (30 years remembrance)

**Planning Committee:**

Trang Lai - Marquette University VSA  
Tuan N.T. - UW- Milwaukee VSA  
Thai Dang - MSOE  
20 supporting members

**Possible Sponsors:**

Potawatomi Bingo Casino (\$5000-10,000)  
Marquette University (\$1000-2000)  
Wisconsin Organization of Asian American (\$500-1000)  
Wisconsin Viet Nam Veterans (\$100-500)  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (\$100-500)  
Viet Nameese Community Organization WI (\$500-1000)  
Nail Shops and Groceries (\$1000-2000)  
Fundraising: Tet, Food Sales, Car Wash, etc (\$500-1000)  
Approximated sponsorship: \$9000-18000

**Estimated Budget:**

Speakers: \$10,000 (including travel and lodging)  
Rentals: \$2000 (electronics, audio and video...)  
Banquet: \$3000 (catered)  
Misc: \$1000 (flyers, folders, website...)  
Total: \$16,000

**Speakers/Entertainers/Workshop leaders:**

Heart2Exist (performing "Who Am I")  
Comedy Sports and Bao Phi (back by popular demand)  
Pham Nhat Nam  
Nguyen Ngoc Nhan  
Community and Political Leaders  
Artists and craftsmen  
Teachers and Educators  
Professionals  
Others

**Max Capacity:** 500-600

**Projected Attendance:** 300-400

**Strengths:** There are two dedicated VSA's organizing and planning the conference. The theme is very appropriate for the time. Campus is centrally located in the city, within proximity of many amenities. Dates of the conference are during the school's spring break. Workshops are related to the theme.

**Possible weaknesses:** Highway construction taking place. One of the heads in planning committee will not be present at the conference (study abroad). Speakers and entertainers will come at high costs.

**VIA-1 Improvement Ideas:** This will be fun, informational, and educational all at the same time!!!