

Narrator: DIỆU TRANG VO
Interviewer: Faith Lam and Cynthia Brown
Date: November 12, 2021
Location: Irvine, California
Sub-collection: My Viet Nam War: Oral History Project
Length of interview: 1:43:59

We conducted the interview in the Gateway study center on the UCI campus. There were four people present. The narrator, Mrs. Diêu Trang Vo(or Lise Vo), the interviewers, Faith Lam and Cynthia Brown, and a friend of the narrator, Patrick. We met the narrator and Patrick outside the front of the student center a few minutes after 17:00. After introductions, we then took pictures of the narrator inside the student center as it was already dark outside.

We then continued onto the gateway study center. We had reserved one of the study rooms from 17:00-20:30. We recorded the interview with our phones, placing them in the center of the table. Both of us sat opposite Mrs.Diêu Trang and Patrick. We had Mrs. Diêu Trang sign the consent form before the interview and instructed both of them to silence their cell phones. However, they ended up not doing so, but we figured it was best to keep going anyway.

We then started with the interview. While he was not interviewed, sound from Patrick can be heard in the background of the interview. He was present during the beginning of the interview and a few phone notification sounds can be heard in the audio. He did leave the room about 30 minutes into the interview, returning while we were discussing the narrator's experience leaving Vietnam and asked if we were nearly finished. The narrator also asked him one question about a location but, he didn't respond. No one else entered or left the room during the interview.

Mrs. Diêu Trang seemed very comfortable throughout the entire interview. The interview was upbeat for the most part. The most emotional point of the interview was talking about the self-immolation. When we were talking about her time on the boat when escaping, she drew a simple map for us. Drawing a line for the coast of Malaysia and demonstrating that they traveled parallel to it. After end of the interview, we gave her a gift from our professor for her time and shared her story with us. We talked after the interview as we exited the study center and headed back to the parking lot. We talked with Mrs. Diêu Trang about her experience with the university and how she knew about the UCI Southeast Asian Archive.