

The SJSU History Department, the  
Burdick Military History Project, Asian American Studies and the College of Social Sciences present:  
*The 2008 Charles B. Burdick Memorial  
Military History Symposium*

# The Vietnam Wars: A Panel Discussion

Wednesday, April 30, 2008, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
Engineering Auditorium (ENG 189)  
San Jose State University, Downtown San Jose

## Panel:

**Al Conetto** served for five months during 1965 in Vietnam, as a First Lieutenant with both the First Cavalry Division and the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade. In 1967, he returned as a Captain in the First Cavalry for 12 months, in the field, in logistics and in intelligence. He became briefing officer to the commander of the division. In 1992, he went back to Vietnam to do research for his thesis on Operation Hump, the first major American battle with the Vietcong, in which he fought. Mr. Conetto has now completed a book on the battle. He is retired. He received both his BA ('64) and MA ('93) in History from SJSU.

**Quang X. Pham** is the son of a lieutenant colonel in the South Vietnamese Air Force, who stayed at his post as Saigon fell and was imprisoned for 12 years in communist reeducation camps. Mr. Pham grew up a refugee, and became the first Vietnamese American to earn Marine Corps aviator's wings. He flew in the Gulf War and Somalia, was aide-de-camp to a two-star general, and subsequently became a healthcare entrepreneur. His book *A Sense of Duty: My Father, My American Journey* (Ballantine) was published in 2005. Pham is CEO of Lathian Health and Chairman of Sansar Solutions. He can be contacted at [www.quangxpham.com](http://www.quangxpham.com).

**Hoi B. Tran** enlisted into the South Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) in June of 1953. He became a Flight Instructor, a Fighter Pilot, and then a Flight and in 1966 was promoted to Combat Group Commander – 74th Tactical Wing, in Can Tho. The next year he became the Commander of the Political Warfare Division of the 33rd Tactical Wing. From February 1968 until April 1975, he flew for Air Vietnam. He is the founder and administrator of Vietnamese & American Veterans of the Vietnam War ([www.vietamericanvets.com](http://www.vietamericanvets.com)).

**Jerry Underdal** joined International Voluntary Services (IVS), a private organization supporting development in South Vietnam, in 1968. He taught English for a year in Quang Nam province and spent a second year on the Saigon staff of IVS as Assistant Team Leader for Education. After the war, Mr. Underdal taught English to Vietnamese refugees and as president of Asia-Pacific Affairs Associates was responsible for the first Vietnamese language radio program in Northern California. He is now a lecturer in the History Department at SJSU.

## Moderator:

**Larry Engelmann** developed, and has taught, a course on the Vietnam War in the History Department for the past 30 years. He has written widely on Vietnam, including the book *Tears Before the Rain: An Oral History of the Fall of South Vietnam* and a dozen articles in *Vietnam* magazine, with three more scheduled for publication in the next year. He is currently working on a novel on Vietnam after 1975 entitled *Bad Earth*. His most recent book, *Feather in the Storm* (Pantheon) has been released internationally in 12 languages. Dr. Engelmann is an Emeritus Professor in the History Department at SJSU.

Welcoming Remarks: **Jonathan P. Roth**, Chair, History Department, SJSU

Admission to this event is free and open to the public.  
For more information contact Dr. Roth at (408) 924-5505 or [jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu](mailto:jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu).