VNLP Mission and Programs

VNLP Mission

The Viet Nam Literature Project promotes Vietnamese literature and supporting materials in English translation, when necessary, in America and to the world. We do this to help teachers, students, and readers understand the social realities of the nation that has played so great a role in the life of the modern world, and to develop Vietnamese literature as a field of study in the United States. We further support the freedom and influence of Vietnamese writers by working for their public recognition.

Four programs fulfill these goals:

Website & Wiki • Representative works by Vietnamese authors with supporting materials for classroom and research use

Outreach • Print newsletter, e-bulletins, and events in major cities

Speakers • Appearances by VNLP authors and staff on campus and in classrooms

Promotion • Nomination of VNLP authors to awards and honors, referral to publications and events of other organizations

Support VNLP

Please consider supporting the Viet Nam Literature Project. Private support pays for all our work these first three years, 2005-7, while we develop income-producing projects and seek institutional, government and foundation partners.

Member $25 covers the cost of preparing and sending you Literature News.
Supporter $50 or Lit Lover $100 helps us send Literature News to those who have not yet joined.
Impresario $250 provides honoraria for the authors and translators for a page on the VNLP website.
Patron $500 pays the production and promotion costs of a new author page on the VNLP website.

This issue features Nguyen Du
DEAR FRIENDS

Spring is here in Orange County, North Carolina. We’re still feeding hay to the horses but they are nibbling at new green shoots.

January and February were spent inside, printing our first book, the mini-comic of the life of Nguyen Chi Thiien, reviewing the website, doing a mailing to past donors for renewal gifts, planning events, building Wikivietlit and talking to the board.

March has been a month of coming out and opening up after a couple months of winter isolation. In the first week Dana Sachs came over from Wilmington to launch her first novel, If You Lived Here, at VNLN events in Chapel Hill and Durham.

The next week we went north to join VNLP supporters for a tour of the new Smithsonian Institution exhibit on Vietnamese Americans. Asia and Pacific American director Franklin Odo came out to join our group.

That week also saw the launch of Wikivietlit, the on-line reference guide to Vietnamese American literature. Editor Linda Dinh and Deputy Editor Phan contributed more than one hundred articles on Vietnamese authors before we went on-line. I announced Wikivietlit at the meetings of the Association for Asian Studies in Boston, where I spoke about VNLN to the business meetings of the Viet Nam Studies Group and Education About Asia.

The following weekend, April 1, Eric Henry came out to the barn with more than a dozen Wikivietlit supporters and members of the Triangle Yale Club, to discuss the Tale of Kieu, the Vietnamese national poem. A double-turfed rattled the tin roof as Eric started his talk on the porch and a honking pair of geese flew onto the pond nearby as he finished.

Now it certainly is spring. Philip Arthur Moore, who joined us for the year in January and built Wikivietlit, will join me in rebuilding the rest of the website. We will put Jonathan Hill’s work for this newsletter all over it, to show the community that is growing around our events and publications.

Over the spring quarter we will resume publication of new author pages at the website, after a year’s pause. We plan a schedule by historic period, rotating by quarter through ancient, colonial, wartime, and contemporary Vietnamese literature.

As board member Daniel Egger remarked in March, during one of a series of conversations with backers I have had over the winter, it is now obvious what we are doing. This newsletter, Wikivietlit, the website, and our events add up to a project to promote Vietnamese literature in the United States.

Won’t you join us? So far about 40 individuals have provided all the support for our work. When our ducks are in a row, in June, we will start a reasoned and sustained campaign for foundation support and in the fall we’ll have our first capital campaign. At the Christmas season we will offer Jonathan’s book for sale.

But right now we need your help, and we always will. Please consider joining our supporters.

Dan

Dan and Eric Henry with Dana Sachs at her UNC reading

THANKS

In the first quarter of 2007, Paulette Stiles and Nancy Seybold reviewed Philip Arthur Moore’s proposal to overhaul the VNLN website. Jonathan Hill designed and manufactured a mini-comic from his documentary of the life of Nguyen Chi Thiien for us to give to current donors, offer as a premium for new donors, then, and for the past decade or so, Patricia McGeorge, now at the University of Massachusetts processed Dan’s fellowship check from the Rockefeller program in “Culture, Art, Trauma, Survival: Developmental Vietnamese Culturalist” at the William Joiner Center. Tim Nguyen came out to the farm to visit Dan on the first day of April. Dan took last year’s beautiful copy of his book and Bernard Lentz’s book of the University of North Carolina hosted by Asian Studies, the Carolina Asia Center, English and American Studies. With sponsorship from professors Yuen Yung, Kevin Hovington, Valerie Alen and Joy Kasun, and administrative support from Patricia Marcouer, Peter Landstrum, Anitha Branton and Susan Mastroianni; the other at the Regulator Bookshop thanks to Katharine Walcott’s introduction. Ben Bratton at HarperCollins provided public relations materials which Jonathan Hill made into a poster. Allison and Rick Martin sent an email about the events to the membership of their Families of Children Adopted from Vietnam. Ellen Sung interviewed Dana for her column in the Raleigh News & Observer (our first press). Ramón Davenport emailed the honorees students at Chapel Hill. Dana Richford emailed the friends of the Carolina Women’s Center. Jackie Gorman emailed the Peace, War & Defense list. Lisa Croucher telephoned the Robertson Scholars, Josie Gregoritsch emailed the English graduate students, and somebody emailed the Creative Writing undergraduates. Barbara White signed up the guests at the Regulator event. Techsopp told our other year’s subscription to Grantstation for next to nothing. Lillian Ellington called to offer to run an interview with me about VNLP and an article about how to teach one of our authors in his Education About Asia magazine. David Thomas of the Indiana Arts Partnership and poet Linh Dinh agreed to join our Advisory Committee. Board members Stanley Katz, Peter Delevett, Pamela Rosenthal, Daniel Egger and volunteer Valeria Asher each reviewed a planning document. Valerie Asher suggested a visit to Pham Vu’s Vietnamese American Heritage Exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution, whose Asian Pacific American Program director Franklin Odo joined us and VNLP author Nguyen Ngoc Nghi, a founder of the exhibit, showed us around. Paul Diomme and Jenn Esperanza offered to host a VNLP event near Austin, Texas. Philip Arthur Moore built our wiki. Linh Dinh and Phan Nhien Hau invited us to Wikivietlit, Linh Dinh and Hai Dang Phan wrote more than 100 articles before launch and agreed to serve as editors. Lily Chiu and Pham Nguyen have all signed on to write several more, and Eric Henry, Wynon Wilson, Qui Nguyen, Huong Ngoc Tuan, Nina McPherson and Christian Langworthy have all contributed an article or two. Michele Thompson put us on the agenda of the Viet Nam Studies Group meeting at the Association for Asian Studies meetings in Boston, where Hye Barrooi of Carolina for Kibera put Dan up. In the hallway at the meetings Buphag Leja of the Office of International Affairs at the University of North Carolina offered us from a Freeman Foundation grant for some programming. Susan Peterson and Erin Whitfield fed the horses while Dan was at the hotel and Leon Devorah and I organized the VNLN event program. Faith Dunham and Rich Douchek and Barbara Dohir, and Martha Scobari of the Triangle Yale Club agreed to co-sponsor an event with Eric Henry on the Tale of Kieu, Bob Lobser the webmaster publicized it, and Barbara White brought drinks, helped set up, and took photos.

Suzanne Laza of Research Triangle Institute gave counsel on public health funding for education about Vietnamese literature. High Fields Farm and Infinite Farms continued to employ Dan, and Open Source Risk Management gave him new work. Tim and Denise Duffy at the Music Maker Relief Foundation suggested John Carver’s books on board development. Thanks!

VNLN Legal Status and Funding

VNLN is a 501c3 for Books & Authors: Viet Nam Inc., a federally recognized 501c3 non-profit corporation in North Carolina. VNLP is establishing its program with private funding alone over the first three years, 2005-7, while developing income-generating procedures and preparing to approach institutional partners.

Four major donors have made a three-year commitment of annual gifts in the range of one to five thousand dollars to support initial operations: Anonymous, Lucy Duffy, Tom Enders & Elise Thoron, and Pamela Rosenthal & Samuel Wertheimer.

We began reaching out to the public with the website in the second quarter and with events in the third quarter of 2005. Six individuals have hosted VNLP events to develop supporters in major cities and in North Carolina: Pamela Rosenthal, Tom Enders, Elise Thoron, Dana Richford and Encore Irving in New York City, Valerie Achor in Washington, DC, and Anna & Steve Wilson in Durham. Direct mail beginning in the fourth quarter attracted about 40 gifts from around 30 donors through 2006.

In the first quarter of 2007, Anonymous, Noah Long, Anne Frank, Tim & Denise Duffy, Sandy Mills, Nina Drucker, Philip Alpersen, Lucy Duffy and Michele Thompson responded to a mailed solicitation to renew their gifts. Wee-Teng Soh, Jun Wang, and Yen Ngo made gifts and Daniel Egger made our first pledge. Anh Do of Nguoi Viet newspaper sent our first corporate contribution.

The William Joiner Center of the University of Massachusetts awarded Dan a Rockefeller fellowship for academic year 2006-7 to build a reference for and about Vietnamese literature scholars on the VNLN website, launched in March 2007 as Wikivietlit.

The VNLP editor has worked so far as a volunteer, supporting himself caring for livestock at Infinity Farm and doing general labor at Highfield Farm. At the end of March 2007 he started directing projects for Open Source Risk Management.

Dear Friends,

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Julie Thi Underhill will show her photos of Cham life in Viet Nam at the International Conference on Champa, sponsored by the Islamic Council on Champa on July 27 in San Jose. Julie’s work with her mother’s family has been supported by a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship through the William Joiner Center at the University of Massachusetts and shown around the country. The photographer is beginning a doctorate in Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. See work from Spring, 2006 at <www.lightstalkers.org/julieteunderhill>. Julie says the photos will soon have their own page on the Web, at www.junderhill.com.

Wikivietlit

Poet Linh Dinh and Hai-Dang Phan of the University of Wisconsin launched Wikivietlit at the VNLP website in March, 2007, with more than 100 articles on Vietnamese authors. Like Wikipedia, the popular web-based encyclopedia, Wikivietlit at <www.vietnamlit.org/wiki> welcomes its readers to revise its articles and to write new ones. Contributing editor Lily Chiu has started contributing a set of articles over the next few months, and Phuong Nguyen and Thuy Dinh will join her in the fall. Readers Wynn Wilcox and Eric Henry and playwright Qui Nguyen have already contributed key articles. Please use Wikivietlit!

Second issue of Journal of Vietnamese Studies out!


However, the University of California Press has explained to Dan in patient tones, as you speak to a crank, that as a matter of policy they will not sell current or back issues of the journal. You can only order the next one. Moreover, they have not yet succeeded in filling any of the several subscription orders we have placed. Others have reported similar problems over more than a year. Still, give the business a chance to serve this fine journal: <http://ucpressjournals.com/journal.asp?j=vs>.

Chao Ban

Rick & Allison Martin have started the fifth volume of Chao Ban, the newsletter for children of families of Vietnamese descent Adopted From Vietnam. The Spring 2007 issue, volume 5, number 1, features an interview with a VNLP supporter, the author Dana Sachs. Each issue features current information about adoption from Viet Nam, a kids’ page, and such contributions as a recipe from cookbook author Andrea Nguyen. Subscribe at <www.chaobannewsletter.com>, four issues each year for $14.99 or two years for $29.

Nguoi Viet Supports VNLP

The oldest and largest Vietnamese newspaper in the United States, Nguoi Viet, has made the first corporate contribution to VNLP. Anh Do, president of the company, sent a check without solicitation. Nguoi Viet, founded by Anh’s father Yen Do, has thrived by serving the Vietnamese community in Southern California and around the country. Their English-language edition, Nguoi Viet 2, at <www.nguoi-viet.com/nv2_default.asp>, offers unparalleled access to Vietnamese American life. Thanks, Nguoi Viet!

VNLP Financials

2005

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2006

| Year Two - Annual | [Awaiting Annual Report in May 2007] |

Nguyen Ngoc Bich Leads Tour of Smithsonian Exhibit

Nguyen Ngoc Bich met a group of VNLP supporters and a television crew on March 14 at the S. Dillon Ripley Center, the international exhibition hall at the Smithsonian Institution, to lead us through the Vietnamese American Heritage Exhibit.

Bich is known to VNLP readers as the translator of the Nguyen Chi Thuan poems on our website. The retired chief of the Vietnamese section of Radio Free Asia, he serves as chair of Boat People S.O.S., Inc, and on the board of the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans.

Franklin Odo, in charge of the Asian Pacific American division at the Smithsonian, came early for the tour and told how when Vietnamese community leaders had suggested the exhibit, he had sent them out to raise funds. They came back with one hundred thousand dollars so quickly that not only was Franklin able to hire a curator, Vu Pham, and mount the show, but Vietnamese Americans will soon have their own one-million dollar endowment at the Smithsonian.

The exhibit sounds a note of triumph. You can see in one photo here Bich in front of some of the larger-than-life cutouts of Vietnamese Americans, successful in many walks of life, that take up one whole wall. The exhibits around the other walls document the arrival of the Vietnam as refugees and the ways they have flourished in the United States.

VNLP supporter Valerie Asher brought up in discussion with Franklin how other ethnic groups have moved on through celebration of their prosperity to bear down on documenting everyday life. For instance, a Holocaust museum has collected her own family’s home movies. Valerie was especially taken with a flattened child’s pool toy, an inflatable ring a son gave his mother before her escape alone on a boat from Viet Nam. For more than an hour, Bich brought all the exhibits to life, for instance singing the Christmas carol he wrote for the first holidays in a refugee camp in Pennsylvania.

One literary critic came with us, after sharing a concern that the exhibit’s success stories were in business, rather than the arts. I was happy to see that writers permeate the show, with quotes from Andrew Lam and Kien Nguyen and a cutout of film-maker Tony Bui. Names and photos of such towering cultural figures as Pham Duy and Nguyen Chi Thuan quietly decorate the exhibit.

The show will begin a three-year tour later this year to as many as fifteen venues, after closing at the Ripley Center on April 1. Each host community must contribute about $4,000 costs and 150 linear feet of exhibition space. To explore hosting the “Vietnamese American Heritage,” please contact Franklin Odo at the APA office of the Smithsonian: (202) 633-2690.
Eric Henry Lectures on Kim Van Kieu at Joint Yale Club Event

Eric Henry called it “the closest thing to a rock concert I have ever witnessed.” University of North Carolina professor Eric Henry held an audience of eighteen spellbound through a cloudburst and two hours beyond with an exposition of the Vietnamese Studies rock concert I have ever attended. He compared three English translations of the famous Nguyen Bich Pavilion episode, when Kieu gazes sadly out at the river.

He paused once when the rain stopped beating on the tin roof of the porch of the Vietnam Literature Project barn and two Canada geese made a honking descent on the pond nearby, and again to grab a candle to light his talk. Eric had sung for us a Trinh Cong Son song influenced by Nguyen Du, and he finished by playing a tape of a setting of the poem to music by his friend the great Pham Duy, sung for us a luc-bat (six-eight) couplet, leaving even those who don’t know Vietnamese with clear understanding. He compared three English translations of the famous Nguyen Bich Pavilion episode, when Kieu gazes sadly out at the river.

His lecture built to a detailed, passionate understanding of the recent translation by Vladislav Zhukov, the Australian infantry veteran whose English verses closely mimic the Vietnamese. Early in his talk Eric had sung for us a Trinh Cong Son song influenced by Nguyen Du, and he finished by playing a tape of a setting of the poem to music by his friend the great Pham Duy, sung for us a luc-bat (six-eight) couplet, leaving even those who don’t know Vietnamese with clear understanding. He compared three English translations of the famous Nguyen Bich Pavilion episode, when Kieu gazes sadly out at the river.

Then we moved inside the VNLP barn apartment to eat and talk. Our neighbors the Duke Asians Bruce Lawrence and Miriam Cooke, and local lawyer Faith Herndon, had run off quickly, but the rest of Faith’s reading group from the Triangle Y Club stayed, including professor Bill Dahl. UNC clinical trials researcher Barbara Dahl, North Carolina State University graphic design professor Martha Scotford, and Research Triangle Institute epidemiologist Suzanne Lea.

Yale’s professor of Southeast Asian history, Ben Kierman, working for the year at the National Humanities Center on a new history of Vietnam, also stayed. With Duke anthropologist Eric Harms was his Cornell graduate school friend Christian Lentz, just back from field research in Saigon. They were delighted to meet the Saigon citizen Dien Ngoc Nguyen, the Hubert Humphrey fellow in Public Policy at UNC. They all were able to advise UNC undergraduates Libby Longino and recent graduate Josh Glaser who are planning Dan and software designer Barbara White, who had brought a cooler of drinks, taken off the apartment door to make more space for the crowd, and photographed the lecture.

Bob and Betsy got the leftover sweet potatoes in the drippings from the ham, making it a great night for the VNLP coouthounds as well as our guests. Kieu is not a poem about having a good time. It is about accepting the ravaging of a lovely and talented woman by fate, although if you could express the act of acceptance in so many words there would be no need of the poem.

Suzanne Lea expressed how moved she was by her first reading of the classic Vietnamese verse novel, and agreed with Dien that it would have been good to talk it over together with so many cultivated adults. But Eric’s rigorous exposition of prosody and translation conveyed Nguyen Du’s insight, and the beautiful setting and good fellowship will help us remember how he said what he had to say.

May these few rustic, careless-composed thoughts have filled With solace those dull times when sentry-drums are still and darkness weighs...

Dana Sachs with audience at UNC

Dana has recently returned to Wilmington from Ha Noi, where she brought her family for a year of Fulbright research for a non-fiction book on Operation Babylift. Her first book, The House on Dream Street, is a memoir of the early days of Americans returning to Viet Nam. Dana’s dead-on grasp of Vietnamese and Americans always captures a sense of growth and change in people’s lives.

Dana earned degrees from Wesleyan and the University of North Carolina and has studied works of Vietnamese literature as a professional. Over the years she has collaborated with Dan Hoa Tran, a volume of fiction by Le Minh Khue, edited with Nguyen Nguyen Cam, another by Nguyen Hue Thiep, and published, with Cam and Dan Hoa Tran, the folktales collection Two Cakes Fit for a King.

Lisa Bobst came out with her daughter Katie to the Chapel Hill event, as another adoptive mother of a child from China came out to The Regulator. The rest of the crowd at Chapel Hill included the English department’s bookkeeper, Susan Marston, an adoptive mother of a grown Vietnamese child, as well as students from Creative Writing and Asian Studies classes. VNLP supporter Wes-Teng Suh, the anthropologist, brought her students Will West and Sandy Pham.

Trude Bennett, professor of Maternal and Child Health at UNC, came out to both events, joined at the Regulator by Howard Machtinger. Rick & Allison Martin of Families of Children Adopted from Viet Nam were at the Durham event, along with Duke writing teacher Eric Harms, VNLP supporter Sandy Mills, and UNC writing students Gabriella Miyares and Will Hallicks. Rick & Allison joined Musicmaker Relief Foundation supporter Norra Church and Dana’s classmate from Breadloaf Writers’ Conference, the emergency room physician Paul Austin, her host in Raleigh Devon White, and Barbara White, who got everyone’s names, and Dan, for drinks afterwards. It was a pleasant end to two wonderful days.

As we are finishing this article Dana called from the Oakland airport, on her way home from a ten-day book tour of California with well-attended readings at the independent Dutton’s bookstore in Los Angeles and at the Barnes & Noble in Oakland’s Jack London Square. USA Today just this morning (April 12, 2007) reviewed her book, which has gone into reprints already due to repeat orders. She is preparing the proposal for her new book for publishers.
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**wikivietlit**

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**Second issue of Journal of Vietnamese Studies out!**

The Journal of Vietnamese Studies has entered its second volume year with glory. The current issue offers the articles “From Patronage to Each issue features

**Chao Ban**

Rick & Allison Martin have started the fifth volume year of Chao Ban, the newsletter for children of Families of Children Adopted From Vietnam. The Spring 2007 issue, volume 5, number 1, features an interview with a VNLP supporter, the author Dana Sachs. Each issue features current information about adoption from Viet Nam, a kids’ page, and such contributions as a recipe from cookbook author Andrea Nguyen. Subscribe at <www.chaobannewsletter.com>, four issues each year for $14.99 or two years for $29.

**Nguyen Viet supports VNLP**

The oldest and largest Vietnamese newspaper in the United States, Nguyen Viet, has made the first corporate contribution to VNLP. Anh Do, president of the company, sent a check without solicitation. Nguyen Viet, founded by Anh’s father Yen Do, has thrived by serving the Vietnamese community in Southern California and around the country. Their English-language edition, Nguyen Viet 2, at <www.nguoi-viet.com/nv2_default.asp>, offers unparalleled access to Vietnamese American life. Thanks, Nguyen Viet!

**VNLP Financials**

**2005**

- **Year One - Annual**
  - **Income** 14,194.85
  - **Expenses** 13,203.70
  - **Net** 991.15

**2006**

- **Year Two - Annual**
  - **[Awaiting Annual Report in May 2007]**

**Hai-Dang Phan launches Wikivietlit**

Poet Linh Dinh and Hai-Dang Phan of the University of Wisconsin launched Wikivietlit at the VNLP website in March, 2007, with more than 100 articles on Vietnamese authors. Like Wikipedia, the popular web-based encyclopedia, Wikivietlit at <www.vietnamlit.org/wiki> welcomes its readers to revise its articles and to write new ones. Contributing editor Lily Chiu has started contributing a set of articles over the next few months, and Phuong Nguyen and Thuy Dinh will join her in the fall. Readers Wynn Wilcox and Eric Henry and playwright Quí Nguyen have already contributed key articles. Please use Wikivietlit!

**Vietnamese Americans will soon have their own one-million-dollar endowment at the Smithsonian**

Nguyen Ngoc Bich met a group of VNLP supporters and a television crew on March 14 at the S. Dillon Ripley Center, the international exhibition hall at the Smithsonian Institution, to lead us through the Vietnamese American Heritage Exhibit. Bich is known to VNLP readers as the translator of the Nguyen Chi Thien poems on our website. The retired chief of the Vietnamese section of Radio Free Asia, he serves as chair of Boat People S.O.S., Inc. and on the board of the National Congress of Vietnamese Americans.

Franklin Odo, in charge of the Asian Pacific American division at the Smithsonian, came early for the tour and told how when Vietnamese community leaders had suggested the exhibit, he had sent them out to raise funds. They came back with one hundred thousand dollars so quickly that not only was Franklin able to hire a curator, Vu Pham, and mount the show, but Vietnamese Americans will soon have their own one-million-dollar endowment at the Smithsonian.

The exhibit sounds a note of triumph. You can see in one photo here Bich in front of some of the larger-than-life cutouts of Vietnamese Americans, successful in many walks of life, that take up one whole wall. The exhibits around the other walls document the arrival of the Vietnamese as refugees and the ways they have flourished in the United States. VNLP supporter Valerie Asher brought up in discussion with Franklin how other ethnic groups have moved on through celebration of their prosperity to bear down on documenting everyday life. For instance, a Holocaust museum has collected her own family’s home movies. Valerie was especially taken with a flattened child’s pool toy, an inflatable ring a son gave his mother before her escape alone on a boat from Viet Nam. For more than an hour, Bich brought all the exhibits to life, for instance singing the Christmas Carol he wrote for the first holidays in a refugee camp in Pennsylvania.

One literary critic came with us, after sharing a concern that the exhibit’s success stories were in business, rather than the arts. I was happy to see that writers permeate the show, with quotes from Andrew Lam and Kieu Nguyen and a cutout of film-maker Tony Bui. Names and photos of such towering cultural figures as Pham Do and Nguyen Chi Thien quietly decorate the exhibit.

The show will begin a three-year tour later this year to as many as fifteen venues, after closing at the Ripley Center on April 1. Each host community must contribute about $4,000 costs and 150 linear feet of exhibition space. To explore hosting the “Vietnamese American Heritage,” please contact Franklin Odo at the APA office of the Smithsonian: (202) 633-2690.
Dear Friends,

Spring is here in Orange County, North Carolina. We’re still feeding hay to the horses but they are nibbling at new green shoots.

January and February were spent inside, printing our first book, the mini-comic of the life of Nguyen Chi Thien, reviewing the website, doing a mailing to past donors for renewal gifts, planning events, building Wikivietlit and talking to the board.

March has been a month of coming out and opening up after a couple months working indoors. In the first week, Dana Sachs came over from Wilmington to launch her first novel. If You Lived Here, at VNL events in Chapel Hill and Durham.

The next week we went next to join VNL in a tour of the new Smithsonian Institution exhibit on Vietnamese Americans. As board member Franklin Odo came out to join our group.

That week also saw the launch of Wikivietlit, the on-line reference guide to Vietnamese literature. Editor Linh Dinh and Deputy Editor Hai-Dang Phan contributed more than one hundred articles on Vietnamese authors before we went on-line.

I announced Wikivietlit at the meetings of the Association for Asian Studies in Boston, where I spoke about VNL to the business meetings of the Viet Nam Studies Group and Education About Asia.

The following weekend, April 1, Eric Henry came out to the barn with more than a dozen VNL supporters and members of the Triangle Yale Club, to discuss the Tale of Kim, the Vietnamese national poem. A domuThu sat on the porch and a looking pair of geese flew over the pond nearly as he finished.

Now it certainly is spring. Philip Arthur Moore, who joined us for the year in January and built Wikivietlit, will join me in rebuilding the rest of the website. We will put Jonathan Hill’s work for this newsletter all over it, to show the community that is growing around our events and publications.

Over the spring quarter we will resume publication of new author pages at the website, after a year’s pause. We plan a schedule by historic period, rotating by quarter through ancient, colonial, wartime, and contemporary Vietnamese literature.

As board member Daniel Egger remarked in March, during one of a series of conversations with backers I have had over the winter, it is now obvious what we are doing. This newsletter, Wikivietlit, the website, and our events all add up to a project to promote Vietnamese literature in the United States.

Won’t you join us? So far about 40 individuals have provided all the support for our work. When our ducks are in a row, in June, we will start a reasoned and sustained campaign for foundation support and in the fall we’ll have our first capital campaign. At the Christmas season we will offer Jonathan’s book for sale.

But right now we need your help, and we always will. Please consider joining our supporters. Dan

The William Joiner Center of the University of Massachusetts awarded Dan a Rockefeller fellowship for academic year 2006-7 to build a reference for and about Vietnamese literature scholars on the VNL website, launched in March 2007 as Wikivietlit.

The VNL editor has worked so far as a volunteer, supporting himself caring for livestock at Infinity Farm and doing general labor at Highfield Farm. At the end of March 2007 he started directing projects for Open Source Risk Management.
Support VNLP

VNLP accepts donations by PayPal at our website, www.vietnamlit.org/donations.html and by check to Viet Nam Literature Project, 5600 Buck Quarter Road, Hillsborough, NC 27278. All donations are tax-deductible under relevant US law.

Please consider supporting the Viet Nam Literature Project. Private support pays for all our work these first three years, 2005-7, while we develop income-producing projects and seek institutional, government and foundation partners.

- Member $25 covers the cost of preparing and sending you Literature News.
- Supporter $50 or Lit Lover $100 helps us send Literature News to those who have not yet joined.
- Impresario $250 provides honoraria for the authors and translators for a page on the VNLP website.
- Patron $500 pays the production and promotion costs of a new author page on the VNLP website.