

LUCY NGUYEN-HONG-NHIEM began her teaching career at the age of 14.



Her father ran a prosperous farm which afforded her the chance to attend a prestigious Catholic boarding school.



However, in 1954 VIET MINH forces invaded her hometown. Her father was jailed and his rice harvest was seized.



With her family now unable to afford tuition, Lucy took it upon herself to pay for her education. The nuns at the school agreed to give her a job teaching younger students.



Lucy finished school, went through university and started teaching at a girls' school outside of SAIGON. However, war would soon interfere with her life once more.



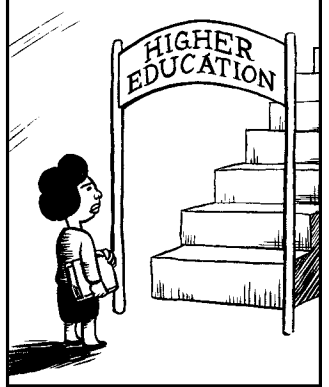
In 1975, the fall of the city to Communist troops was imminent. Lucy's husband made arrangements for her and their daughters to escape to the United States.



After arriving in America, Lucy initially worked as a file clerk to support her family.



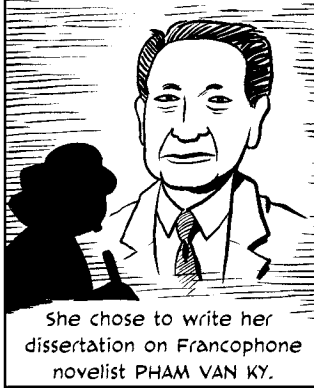
She wanted to return to teaching, though that would require additional schooling.



So, while still acclimating to her new home, Lucy began her graduate studies at the UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS at AMHERST.



Besides earning her teaching credentials, a Ph.D. was important to Lucy.



She chose to write her dissertation on Francophone novelist PHAM VAN KY.

After many years of study, Lucy achieved her DOCTORATE.



Lucy taught classes in Vietnamese literature and Southeast Asian culture at UMASS, and French classes at Mount Holyoke College.

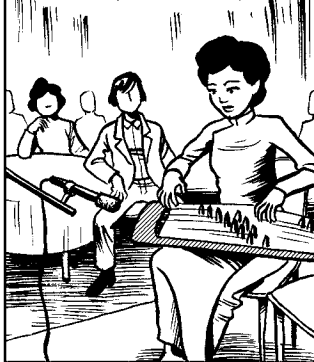


Her educational career would extend outside of the classroom...



She also worked as a counselor, providing academic help to Asian-American students.

Lucy also organized Asian New Year celebrations and cultural festivals within the college community.



In one of her courses, Asian students wrote about their own experiences in coming to America. She would eventually co-edit an anthology that shared their stories.



Details for this story came from the following:

Lucy Nguyen-Hong-Nhiem's memoir, *A Dragon Child: Reflections of a Daughter of Annam in America*

Charles C. Smith's article "Between Two Cultures: Southeast Asian Tradition Meets Campus Life" published in the June 1985 issue of *Contact*.

Special thanks to Lucy Nguyen-Hong-Nhiem for providing some of the visual reference for this comic.