



uNAVSA-7 in Washington D.C. (July 29, 2010 – August 1, 2010)

One year after VAHF was named 2009-2010 CPP Beneficiary, we returned to uNAVSA to accept the check, give a preview of our work, and recruit leaders and volunteers to become a part of this movement.

CPP Ceremony

At the CPP Ceremony, VAHF was presented with a check for a total of \$46,963.50, an amount well over our goal for this year's fundraising campaign. However, we later found out that as a result of an incredible donation from President Brian Vo's company, the Macquarie Group Foundation, the total shot up to \$59,529.02! We hold the record for the highest amount ever raised in the history of CPP!



Paul Nguyen, the CPP Liaison for VAHF, delivered a Thank You speech, reminding all of the attendees of the generosity and dedication of individuals and VSAs and regions that contributed to the campaign. Following the speech, VAHF gave the audience a preview of the project with a video recapping interviews conducted in San Jose and during the pilot phase. Nancy Bui, VAHF President and Founder, closed the ceremony with a few short remarks about the people who made our work possible.



Workshop

Also at the conference, Paul Nguyen and Roger Le presented a workshop designed to recruit volunteers and train regional directors. The room was filled with about 30 attendees who asked great questions and showed genuine interest in contributing to the project.



Resource Fair

Immediately following the workshop, VAHF set up a visually impressive booth at the resource fair. Several foam boards were displayed on easels along with handouts and brochures. People were constantly stopping by to check out our work and to ask questions about the project and how they can help. VAHF successfully generated a lot of interest and excitement and more people have jumped on board as directors! It was a huge hit!



Documenting

Our friends, Chris and Eric Pham from “Phame Factory” documented the CPP ceremony for us. They were also able to schedule interviews of uNAVSA board members about the conference including: Brian Vo, Hai Ton, Lisa Nguyen, Thoa Nguyen, and Kim Vu. Interviews were actually being conducted during the week prior to uNAVSA in Falls Church, VA, not too far away from the conference.

Interviewing Event in Falls Church, VA (July 23, 2010 – August 1, 2010)

The VAHF team consisting of Nancy Bui, Jason Wang, Lee Nguyen, Roger Le, and Diane Nguyen along with the SBTN crew worked tirelessly for an entire week to collect interviews from the Vietnamese American community around the capitol area. A total of 67 interviews were conducted by the close of the event!



Interviewing Event at Marian Days in Carthage, MO (August 5, 2010 – August 8, 2010)

Shortly after the conference was over, VAHF went right back to work by making a trip out to Carthage, MO to collect interviews during Marian Days. Admittedly, it was an unplanned trip that we put together last minute. Linda Ho-Peche, Paul Nguyen, Roger Le, and Hoai Pham were able to work flexibly around the difficult conditions and conducted 13 interviews! It was a great learning experience for a variety of reasons relating to logistics and pre-planning. Most notably, we witnessed a remarkable display of emotion from one of our interviews. The lesson to take away is that most Vietnamese Americans who endured life in Vietnam during the war and the journey to America, have emotions bottled up that have been with them for decades. By asking them to participate in this project, we are giving them an outlet to finally be heard. They have a lifetime filled amazing stories of tragedy and triumph and many of them are just waiting for someone to sit down and listen. As they unpack their emotional burdens, it is clear that there is a therapeutic function of the interview process.



Next Steps

VAHF is gearing up to train Regional Directors so that they can bring the project home to their respective communities. An orientation conference call is scheduled for next week to meet and greet and to address any preliminary questions.

Next Stop

VAHF is also planning another Interviewing Event in Orange County, CA in early November! The team will consist of Nancy Bui, Roger Le, Lee Nguyen, Jason Wang, and Charlie Van Lee with a goal of reaching 80 interviews.

THANK YOU once again uNAVSA, CPP Committee, and participating VSAs for your support! The project is now in full swing and we hope to maintain our strong partnership in the forthcoming year!