An internationally recognized research collection, the Southeast Asian Archive collects organization and personal archives, books, serials, and other material documenting the experiences of refugees and immigrants who left Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam after 1975.

We are deeply grateful to the individuals who have established the following Named Library Funds.

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To view a full listing of library donors, please see: http://partners.lib.uci.edu. Gifts to the Libraries help preserve the past and are an investment in the future of our university, community, and state. For information about supporting the UCI Libraries, please call 949.824.4651.

For the full exhibit checklist with annotations, online exhibits, and past exhibits, please see: exhibits.lib.uci.edu.

“Two adults and three children walk down the stairs from their temporary housing quarters.” Fort Chaffee Photograph Collection of Vietnamese and Cambodian Refugees.

“Exchanging Books.” Nguyen Quang Phuc, date unknown.

**Spring Exhibit | Langson Library**

**Hope of Freedom**

**Project Ngoc’s Decade of Dedication**

APRIL 2012 - OCTOBER 2012
MURIEL ANSLEY REYNOLDS EXHIBIT GALLERY

Painting by Thinh Quoc Le, Project Ngoc Records, UCI Libraries Southeast Asian Archive
Welcome to the UC Irvine Libraries’ Spring 2012 exhibit, Hope of Freedom: Project Ngoc’s Decade of Dedication.

This inspiring exhibit chronicles the history and wide-reaching impact of Project Ngoc (Project Pearl), a UCI student-led humanitarian organization whose decade of activism raised awareness and support for the plight of Vietnamese refugees detained in camps in Asia after the Vietnam War. Project Ngoc donated their rich materials to the Libraries’ internationally recognized Southeast Asian Archive in the Department of Special Collections & Archives, where they are available for scholarly research. The exhibit is curated by Special Collections & Archives staff.

We are honored to have Manuel Gómez, Ph.D., UCI Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Student Affairs and 2011 UCI Medalist as the featured speaker for our exhibit opening on April 24.

I hope you enjoy the exhibit and return to view others in the future.

Lorelei Tanji
Interim University Librarian

After the fall of Saigon in 1975, over two million Southeast Asians fled their home countries. While many successfully resettled in new countries, many others perished at sea or lingered for years in refugee camps and detention centers yearning for freedom. Dedicated UCI students organized Project Ngoc to relieve their suffering.

Initiated as a class in 1987 by UCI graduate student Tom Wilson, Project Ngoc raised awareness about the plight of Southeast Asian refugees and provided direct relief to refugees detained in camps. Project Ngoc raised money to send students to work as teachers, counselors, and translators in refugee camps in Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Thailand, and to lobby in Washington, D.C. on behalf of Southeast Asian refugees. In Orange County, they organized protests, vigils, art exhibits, concerts, and conferences. These ambitious students had a tremendous impact at home and abroad. Project Ngoc disbanded in 1997, after most Vietnamese refugees had been resettled or repatriated.

This exhibit celebrates the power of student activism while also remembering the many tragedies of the Southeast Asian refugee crisis. Drawing deeply from the Project Ngoc Records in the Libraries Southeast Asian Archive, the exhibit includes photographs, correspondence, clippings, flyers, and reproductions of the powerful paintings that Project Ngoc members collected from refugee artists detained in camps in Hong Kong and Thailand.