

Reaching Out
First National Asian Heritage Month Video Conference
14 May 2011
University of Calgary Health Sciences Centre Room 1405A

1:17 pm (MDT) Pipa performance by Hui Nancy Li (Live performance)

Nancy Li has been playing the Pipa, a plucked-string traditional Chinese musical instrument, for over 16 years. She has a strong passion for music and the promotion of Chinese arts and culture in the community. In 2008, she received the Platinum Trophy, the highest distinction in the musical instrument category, in the Canadian Chinese Youth Art Performance Festival. In 2009, she was invited as one of the opening performers for the kick-off events of Asian Heritage Month in Calgary and Edmonton. Nancy is a recent graduate from the University of Calgary's Bachelor of Health Sciences program, majoring in Biomedical Science.

2:32 pm (MDT) Dance performance of Vietnam's Three Regions, performed by the Calgary Vietnamese Youth Association (video recording of a live performance at the Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts in Calgary)

Vietnam is located in the southeastern extremity of the Indochinese peninsula and occupies over 300,000 square kilometers, surrounded on the North side by China, and on the West side by Laos and Cambodia. The S-shaped country has a north-to-south distance of 1,650 kilometers and is about 50 kilometers wide at the narrowest point, with a proportionally large coastline of 3,260 kilometers.

Vietnam is traditionally divided into three regions (North, South and Central) based on years of history, occupation and geopolitical settlement. These regions are known among Vietnamese for differences in dialect, food, history, culture, weather and temperament of the people. The following dance, performed by the Calgary Vietnamese Youth Association, represents the fashion, music, and lifestyle of the diverse people of Vietnam. Dancers are dressed in their traditional dresses and finery, the North region with the 4-panel dress and flat round hats, the Central region with their ao ai dress and conical hats, and the South region with their ao dai dress and umbrellas.

3:20 pm (MDT) All-styles dance performance by "Straight-to-It". (Live performance)
"Straight to it " crew consists of members Balal Kaddoura, Farzam Bic and Physick. We have been at the forefront of the Calgary bboy community for three years ! We have competed at It takes two, 246 bboy trix, rep your step,old to new and dont sleep. We are proud to be representing Southern Alberta to celebrate Asian Heritage Month this year.

4:32 pm (MDT) Talk on “Reaching Out” by Dr. Hieu Van Ngo

Hieu Van Ngo spent three years in a refugee camp in Thailand, and has experienced life as a first generation Canadian in Canada. Hieu is known as an advocate for culturally diverse children and youth, and as a community builder.

As executive director of the Coalition for Equal Access to Education from 2001 to 2009, Hieu worked with a wide range of Calgary community partners to influence policy decisions that promote quality, equitable education services for children of immigrant families. His work has raised awareness about systemic barriers in the Canadian education system that disadvantage ethnocultural learners, and has offered practical solutions to effective multicultural education.

Hieu has generously contributed his time and expertise to various organizations in the community, and currently serves as chair of the Ethnocultural Council of Calgary, a board member of the Centre for Newcomers, and as a member of the Arts and Culture Grant Committee of the Calgary Foundation. Hieu is also a past chair of All Nations Theatre, and an ongoing advisor to the Asian Heritage Foundation, the Vietnamese Youth Group and the Calgary Young Offenders Centre.