Princeton Internships in Civic Service: Legacies of War

Linh Nguyen '21
1. What is Legacies of War?

Nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C.
A few of my designs for Legacies!
Legacies of War is a nonprofit that educates the public on the Secret War in Laos (1964-73) — during which the U.S. dropped 270+ million bombs on the country in an attempt to discourage North Vietnamese travel by foot — and advocates for the material advancement and mental health of the greater Laotian American diaspora impacted by the war.
2. What did I do?
Projects, programming, and more
Project Intern Overview

- **Job description:**
  - Constructing and executing virtual events to engage with our donors and community members who had not been previously exposed to the war

- **Other responsibilities:**
  - Newsletter (formatting + copyediting)
  - Graphic design (promotional materials + animations)
  - Internal research (looking into war-era defense contractors, religious groups that have been demining Laos for decades, etc.)
A few of my designs for Legacies!
Highlights of virtual internship

- **Board members**
  - Extensive network of individuals from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences
  - Career advice (**tons of fellow WoC**)  

- **Thip Khao Talk series**
  - New Legacies initiative to bring interesting people and conversations to people’s computers at home
3. Reflections

Thoughts at the end of 10 weeks
Limitations

- **Zoom fatigue**
  - Solution: scheduling in walks and reading time on Google Calendar to inform coworkers of self-care time

- **Social isolation**
  - Solution: add people on social media and REALLY take advantage of those Slack reactions
Final thoughts

- **Legacies and family history**
  - Reevaluation of Vietnam War, regional conflict
  - Understanding personal obligation to members of the diaspora to redistribute privilege

- **Future career aspirations**
  - Pro AND con: volatility of nonprofit sector
  - Drive and passion can’t be forced — reinvigorate with dogs, good food, and nature to avoid burnout
Credits

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