

SUE L. NGUYEN (May 3, 1937 – September 18, 2011)

Sue Le Nguyen was born the fourth child of Kien Xuan Nguyen, her father, and Hoa Thi Phung, her mother, in Hanoi, Vietnam. When she was 23 years old, she won a full scholarship at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois to earn her Bachelor's degree in Education. This experience began an exciting time of travel and learning, as she later went on to study French literature in Paris, teach in her native country of Vietnam, work as a radio broadcaster in Australia, attend interpretation school in Switzerland, and finally, earn her Master's degree in French Literature at Boston College.

In 1981, she came to live in Houston, Texas, where she established a long career advocating for children and education. Sue worked for over 25 years in many different roles in that field, and most significantly, as a guidance counselor for middle-school students in the Houston Independent School District for over 20 years. Throughout her life, she continued to travel -- her destinations included five continents and far-away locales, such as Belize, Venezuela, Morocco, Egypt, Russia, and China. Sue was also passionate about tennis, golf, classical music, and her dogs, Rocky and Roxy.

Throughout her life, Sue gave her time, energy, compassion, and concern to help her students empower themselves through personal growth and education. As a tribute to her life's work and to ensure that her legacy continues, Sue's surviving siblings, Bich Nguyen, Nancy Lee, and Binh Nguyen, as well as her niece, Glenda Lee, have been honored to establish two endowed scholarships at the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Boston College: The Sue L. Nguyen '73 Annual Prize for Academic Excellence in Graduate Studies and The Sue L. Nguyen '73 Annual Research Travel Prize.