

Chào Fulbright

The Fulbright Program was proposed to the U.S. Congress in 1945 by Senator J. William Fulbright. The program was signed into law by President Truman in 1946 and is now active in over 150 countries worldwide. The Fulbright Program in Vietnam began in 1992, with the establishment of the Vietnamese Student program. The program now has the following components:

- Vietnamese Scholar Program
- Vietnamese Student Program
- U.S. Scholar Program
- U.S. Student Program
- U.S. Senior Specialist Program
- Fulbright Economics Teaching Program in Ho Chi Minh City

Each year, 25-30 Vietnamese citizens are granted scholarships to pursue a Master's degree or post-doctoral research in the U.S. Likewise, 20-25 Americans receive grants to lecture or pursue research in Vietnam.

*The Fulbright Program in Vietnam
Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy
Rose Garden Tower, 6 Ngoc Khanh
Ba Dinh, Hanoi, Vietnam*

From the Director

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from the Fulbright Office! For many of you, it is summertime, but the Fulbright Program in Vietnam is as busy as always.

We have been hastily making preparations for the departure of the 2008 Vietnamese Student cohort who will go to the U.S. this fall for their master programs. We held a two-day pre-departure orientation for them in Hanoi with informative and useful sessions. We are also preparing to welcome the new cohort of U.S. grantees to Vietnam for lecturing/research in the academic year 08-09.

In mid May, we held the Enrichment seminar for current U.S. grantees in Vietnam. The English Speaking contest co-

organized by Fulbright and Nha Trang University, and judged by U.S. grantees has motivated the English learning and teaching at Nha Trang University.

The Fulbright Program in Vietnam also expanded its reach to the far Middle of the country. Many ideas on cooperation activities came out of the meetings with leaders of Quang Binh University and Hong Duc University.

Fulbright Vietnam has made another big leap in bringing qualified volunteer teachers from the U.S. to teach English at different institutions throughout Vietnam under the English Teaching Assistant program (ETA). Ten teachers will start teaching at places that really need their motivation and ex-



perience.

As a final welcome, I would like to thank those of you who shared your photos/articles/stories with the Fulbright community. As always, we welcome your suggestions and comments to make the Fulbright Newsletter more informative and interesting.

Best regards,

Dr. Tran Xuan Thao

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10th Anniversary of the Vietnamese Scholar Program

The Fulbright Program in Vietnam held a special conference to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the its Vietnamese Scholar Program on June 21, 2008 in Hoi An Town, Quang Nam Province.

About 50 Fulbright alumni throughout Vietnam and officials from universities in Quang Nam, Da Nang and Hue attended the ceremony and Symposium "10 Year Anniversary Vietnamese Scholar Program: 1998-2008." At the Symposium, alumni gave presentations on their Fulbright experiences, the Fulbright impact and the future of the Fulbright program. These events were also a chance to reconnect and strengthen the Fulbright alumni network, and to engage the alumni in activities to develop a stronger Fulbright Program in Vietnam.

Story inside!



A panel to discuss the future of the Fulbright Program



Fulbright Alumni at the 10th Anniversary

2008 Vietnamese Student Pre-departure Orientation

On May 30-31, twenty-two grantees of the 2008 Vietnamese Program gathered in Hanoi to attend the pre-departure orientation. This year's group of grantees has a broad representation of fields of study, geographical areas and affiliations. They have been successfully placed at prestigious American institutions and will start their programs this fall.



PAO James A. Warren gives opening remarks



Ambassador Michalak with the grantees at his residence

The PDO was held to help the grantees prepare for their journey and experiences in the U.S. They were all inspired by the opening remarks of PAO James A. Warren reaffirming the value and pride of being Fulbrighters *"All of you have the skills and qualities needed to succeed. At every step in the selection process we looked carefully, on your applications and during the interviews, to see if you have what it takes to study successfully at American universities. And all of you do. If you didn't, you wouldn't be here today."*

The grantees were honored to be guests at Ambassador Michalak's residence and enjoyed chatting informally with him about the relations between Vietnam and the United States. After the PDO, grantees commented:

"I expected lots of hard-to-chew information but it turned out that there's loads of fun."

"I think everything is perfect. Please do the same thing for the next orientations!"

Let's join us to wish this year's grantees best luck during their Fulbright grant period. We totally trust that they will be successful. Ha My Anh, a 2008 grantee reaffirmed this at the Ambassador's dinner *"Thanks the Fulbright Program for being the first and strong wind that takes us from our home harbor; thank you for having been, and will be the lighthouse that guides us on the right sea-routes! I am sure that we will make the most out of each minute of our journey; and when we sail back, I believe our ships will be loaded heavily with not only knowledge, but also friendship and mutual understanding with people from other seas, other lands who speak other languages."*



Outreach Activities with Nha Trang University, May 20–21, 2008

Enrichment Seminar for U.S. Grantees

The enrichment seminar was to share the research results and experiences as a Fulbright grantee with others. The grantees spent an entire day describing their Fulbright work and discussing what they have learned. Overall, both scholars and students grantees worked on many interesting topics such as Micro-credit programs, Theology & Religion, Language and Literature, Painting and Printmaking, Environmental Sciences, Health Care, Engineering, Economic Development, Communication, Agriculture Education, etc. The grantees thought the experiences were very rich, providing them with an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of Vietnamese culture, learn a new language, and work in an international setting.



Open Forum between scholars and faculty members

Open Forums

On May 21, 2008, in cooperation with Nha Trang University, the Fulbright Program successfully organized two Open forums at Nha Trang University. The Open Forums between U.S. scholars and faculty members of Nha Trang University was on the theme “Academic life of a Professor: Challenges & Opportunities”. The Open Forum between U.S. students and Vietnamese students on the theme “Student Life – Challenges and Experiences”.



NTU Student asks questions at the Open Forum



The Open forums created the opportunities for grantees to mingle and learn more about the Vietnamese culture and communities. It is also a good opportunity for the Vietnamese faculty members and student to get to know more about American culture and life.

Evan Forward shares experiences with NTU students



Tammy Nguyen shares experiences with NTU students

English Speaking Contest

The English contest was organized as an extra activity to enhance the link between the University and the Program in order to promote the Program and U.S. education. Eleven semi-final contestants presented their topics. Six junior grantees and one senior scholar joined the faculty members as judges. The five finalist received prizes from the Fulbright Program.

The Grand Prize winner covers one year of school tuition

The Two Second-Prizes cover 75% of the school tuition.

The Two Third-Prizes cover 50% of the school tuition.

Counselor for Public Affairs Mr. James Warren gave the Opening Remarks at the Contest. The Contest was organized in the University lecture hall and about 100 other students and faculty members occupied every seat of the hall. Eleven students were selected to participate in the final contest. Each presentation was about 10 minutes. Six U.S. grantees and one senior scholar joined two university faculty members as judges. In the end, the judges met and decided on the five best presentations for the prizes.



Fulbright Program expands cooperation activities

With Quang Binh University (Quang Binh province)

On April 8, the Fulbright Program visited Quang Binh University (QBU). With the participation of about 100 faculty members of the University, Fulbright had a presentation on "*Fulbright Program - Opportunities for Scholarships and Exchange Programs*". Besides, Fulbright scholar Dr. Michelle Zjhra had a presentation on "*Curricular Change at the University and Department Level: Design & Implementation*". There were about 70 participants including Rector, Vice Rectors, Deans and Vice Deans as well as faculty members from Quang Binh University. Since Quang Binh University is implementing the Credit-based system, the talk was beneficial to the University. Dr. Zjhra not only gave the participants ideas about the role of university education in the 21st century, but also the curricular needs for the 21st century. In addition, the presentation was very much appreciated with a focus on the outcomes of program curriculum and credits.



Dr. Zjhra presented at QBU



A faculty member of QBU shared experiences



Dr. Zjhra, Dr. Thao and colleagues of QBU



Dr. Thao and Dr. Phan, Rector of QBU

With Hong Duc University (Thanh Hoa Province)



Dr. Nguyen Song Hoan, Vice Rector of HDU at the Workshop Opening

Hong Duc University (HDU) is implementing the credit-based system and they are eager to learn about experiences from other institutions, especially from foreign institutions. To address its needs, Fulbright Program sent Dr. Michelle Zjhra, who has had many years' experiences working at Excellent Teaching Center at Georgia University, to help the University to address their practical issues of credit-based system.

Dr. Zjhra worked with the University board, Deans and Vice Deans on "*University and Department Level Curricular Changes*" with a focus on credit system implementation. Dr. Zjhra spent a day working with deans and lecturers on "*Course Level Curricular Changes*" and "*Pedagogical Resources*". It was a very successful seminar series, helping to relieve a lot of concerns and problems from faculty members.



A faculty member of HDU shares experiences with Dr. Zjhra



Rector of HDU and Director of Fulbright Program in Vietnam



Dr. Zjhra at the workshop at HDU

In-country Occasional Lecturing Programs by Fulbright U.S. Scholars



March 13-14, 2008: Dr. James H. Cobbe led seminars on: *"Resources Allocation and Financial Management in Universities and Colleges"* at the Center for Educational Testing and Quality Assessment (CETQA), Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City.



March 10, 2008: Dr. Michelle Zjhra gave a talk on *"Sustainability Issues across Local and Global Scales"* at the Department of Geography – College of Social Sciences & Humanities, Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City.



March 17-19, 2008: Dr. Carol Wilder conducted series of seminars on *"Communication and Media Studies"* at the Department of Journalism & Communication, College of Social Sciences & Humanities, Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City.



March 26-27, 2008: Dr. Cary Trexler gave seminar on *"Should Environmental Education a Part of Agricultural Education? Experiential Learning: Alternatives to Lecture Based Learning; and How People Learn"* at the Faculty of Biology, Hanoi Education University.



April 23-25, 2008: Dr. Michelle Zjhra gave a seminar on: *"People, Poverty and the Environment"* and *"Shifting to a credit system and incorporating curriculum change that meets the needs of the 21st century"* at Hanoi National Economics University.



May 15-16, 2008: Dr. Ho Nhut Tan and Dr. Michelle Zjhra led series of workshops on *"Challenges and Opportunities from Instructor Perspectives on Transition to Credit-Based Education"* and *"Active Teaching and Learning Methods"* at the College of Natural Sciences, Vietnam National University in Hanoi.



May 23, 2008: Dr. James Cobbe, Dr. Ho Nhut Tan and Dr. Michelle Zjhra presented papers at the International Conference on *Comparative Education "Vietnamese Education in Globalization Context"* at Ho Chi Minh City Education University.

Profile of Vietnamese Students to the U.S. AY 2008-2009



Mr. Bui Tuan Linh
*Consultant, Pricewaterhouse
 Coopers Vietnam*
 Major: Organizational Management
 Affiliation: Johns Hopkins
 University



Ms. Diep Thi My Hao
*Instructor of Business
 Administration, Nha Trang
 University, Vietnam*
 Major: M.B.A.
 Affiliation: Thunderbird University



Mr. Duong Vi Quan
*Corporate Sales and Structuring
 Officer, Citibank N.A., Hanoi
 Branch, Vietnam*
 Major: M.B.A.
 Affiliation: Emory University



Ms. Ha My Anh
*Program Assistant, Water and
 Sanitation Program for Small Towns
 in Vietnam*
 Major: Development Studies
 Affiliation: Duke University



Ms. Hoang Ngoc Lan
*Instructor of English/Admin Staff,
 HCMC University of Security*
 Major: Higher Educational
 Administration
 Affiliation: University of Buffalo



Mr. Huynh The Du
*Lecturer/Researcher, Fulbright
 Economics Teaching Program*
 Major: Public Policy
 Affiliation: Harvard University



Ms. Le Ni La
*Lecturer, HCMC University of
 Education*
 Major: American Literature
 Affiliation: Arkansas University



Ms. Le Thi Thuy Nga
Marketing Director, Sharp Ideas
 Major: M.B.A.- Marketing
 Affiliation: Clark University



Mr. Nguyen Nhu Tung
*Trade/Economic Officer,
 Australian General Consulate*
 Major: M.B.A. - Sustainable
 Development
 Affiliation: Brandeis University



Ms. Nguyen Phuong Lan
*Official, Ministry of Planning and
 Investment*
 Major: Public Administration
 Affiliation: Syracuse University



Mr. Nguyen The Phuong
*Research fellow, Hanoi University
 of Agriculture*
 Major: Environmental Studies
 Affiliation: Syracuse University



Ms. Nguyen Cam Thanh
*Lecturer, VNU-HN College of
 Sciences*
 Major: TESOL
 Affiliation: Central Michigan
 University

Profile of Vietnamese Students to the U.S. AY 2008-2009



Ms. Nguyen Thi Thuy Hanh
Office Manager/PR Coordinator,
US-based PR Company
Major: Communications/Public
Relations
Affiliation: Ball State University



Mr. Nguyen Thuong Hoang Hung
Director, Thanh Nam QualiPro
Consulting & Construction JSC.
Major: Project Management
Affiliation: George Washington
University



Mr. Nguyen Van Tung
Project Manager, HealthBridge
Canada
Major: Public Health
Affiliation: New York University



Ms. Pham Thi Thuy Tien
Corporate Finance Manager,
VMFinance JSC.
Major: M.B.A.
Affiliation: Brandeis University



Ms. Pham Van Trang
Reporter, Bloomberg News
Major: Journalism
Affiliation: California State
University - Fresno



Ms. Tran Lieu Cam Tu
Instructor of English, HCMC
University of Education & Tran Dai
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Major: Higher Educational
Administration
Affiliation: University of Arizona



Ms. Tran Thi Huong Lua
Member of Board of Directors,
Vietnamnet Plus JSC., Vietnamnet
Media Group
Major: M.B.A.
Affiliation: Vanderbilt University



Mr. Tran Xuan Hung
Deputy Head, Division of Drug
Treatment and Rehabilitation
Policy, Department of Social Evils
Prevention
Major: Public Administration
Affiliation: Brandeis University



Ms. Vo Thi Phuong Mai
Lecturer, Hue College of Science,
Hue University
Major: Environmental Law
Affiliation: Golden Gate University



Mr. Vu Hoang Phu
Le Quy Don Gifted High School,
Nha Trang, Vietnam
Major: TESOL
Affiliation: Southern Illinois
University

A Great Learning Opportunity at the University of Puerto Rico

Dr. Tran Thi Hoa, a grantee of the 2007 Fulbright Vietnamese Scholar Program, participated in the Occasional Lecturing Program (OLP). She was sent to the University of Puerto Rico, where she gained valuable experience.



Seminar at the UPR

"I have taken an opportunity to exchange information on effects of global and climate change in biodiversity through my presentation with the students and faculty of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR). UPR is the minority-serving institution. I met with people of the faculty. We shared a diversity of tropical ecosystems, including beaches, coral reefs, mangrove swamps, dry, wet, and cloud forests and the amazing limestone or "mogote" formations and great cultural diversity.

Lessons to share in sustainable development of agriculture:

Successful management of mangrove forest: Make a balance between poverty alleviation and rural development programs in Vietnam. "Shrimp ponds" are replaced by shrimp industries such as enterprise that are managed and monitored by the government. Farmers can work for them as "shrimp producing workers or experts". The Department of Agricultural and Rural Development

(DARD) and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) are involved in management framework with Red Cross Association with farmer-oriented agro forestry conservation at provincial level.

Puerto Rico has beautiful mangrove forest dominated by *Rhizophora mangle*, *Avicenna germinant*, *Languncularia racemosa*, *Conocarpus erectus*. and natural forest such as the El Yunque National Forest where Prof. Mitch Aide and I, together with his student (*Beatriz Otero, Puerto Rico, whose research is on "Land Use History and Communities of Birds and Amphibians"*), went to for a field visit. Much of the mangroves in Puerto Rico have been lost to urban development along the coast and this appears to be continuously resulting in the continuous decline of these forests.

We found mutual benefits from my visit to Puerto Rico. My seminar on "***In-situ Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity On-farm in Vietnam: Lessons Learned and Policy Implications***" shared information on our research with UPR students and faculty. "Dr. Tran gave a very informative seminar on her research in Vietnam to a group of approximately 30 students and faculty. In addition, she interacted individually with a number of students and faculty. One of the major outcomes of the visit is the possibility of expanding research that my laboratory is conducting with funds from NSF to Vietnam, where we would collaborate with Dr. Tran and her husband", commented Prof. Mitch Aide, UPR, Former American Fulbrighter in Colombia in 1990-1991.

Of the most interest to me is the lesson learnt from Prof. Mitch Aide's research team on "The New Tool to Monitor Tropical Biodiversity", drawn from the NSF project "Automated Remote Biodiversity Monitoring Network" (ARBIMON). The ARBIMON project is designed to monitor the effect of global climate change on montane bird and amphibian communities in Puerto Rico. Our idea of future collaboration on this project is to make a duplication of the "ARBIMON" in a tropical forest ecosystem in Vietnam, which has similar geographical conditions as the tropical rain forest ecosystems in Puerto Rico.

I took an opportunity to see the location where sugarcane used to dominate, the Rumba music and mask making, and Bomba/Plena music with the Caribbean-originated dances. This location is Loiza where there is a high concentration of descendants of African slaves who worked the sugar plantations. This is one of the poorest areas in Puerto Rico, and there is no longer any sugarcane.



Enjoying the domino cards playing with Puerto Ricans in Old San Juan

I participated to a Final Filing Meeting of the students and faculty of the Universidad Metropolitana on May 8. The dancing group's name is Areyto, they are all Puerto Ricans and they performed typical dances of Puerto Rico, some of their performances have African influences such as "la bomba puertorriqueña".

I am very proud of participating in the Fulbright program. I found the Fulbright OLP an important opportunity to the public especially to the minority institution. Having taken this duty travel, I am able to obtain information on globalization-migration in Latin American Ecosystems, to exchange our ideas on community based conservation of native genetic resources in Vietnam, and last but not least, to collect samples for my research project supported by the Fulbright grant."



Recording sounds and collecting samples (Dr. Tran and Beatriz Otero at the El Yunque National Forest)

Dr. Tran Xuan Thao Receives Recognition from Local Partners for his Contributions

Dr. Tran Xuan Thao, Director of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, received Certificates of Appreciation from the Chairman of People's Committee of Kien Giang Province and from the Chair of the Vietnamese Association of Community College last April 2008. The Certificates recognize Dr. Thao's efforts and achievements in fostering education partnership between U.S. Community Colleges and the local colleges. His contributions in this area started in 2002 when he placed a U.S. Fulbright scholar in Kien Giang Community College to help the College better understand the concepts and missions of community colleges. Dr. Thao then proceeded with assistance in organizing seminars, workshops and conferences to help the institutions make the most out of the exchange program.

In July 2007, he went on organizing leadership training courses for seventy key administrators, rectors, vice rectors, department heads of all Community Colleges in Vietnam, providing them with precious professional experiences. To recognize Dr. Thao's contribution to the Vietnamese community colleges in general and Kien Giang Community College in particular, the Chairman of Kien Giang People's Committee and the Chair of the Vietnamese Association of Community Colleges have cordially given him the Certificates of Recognition. Asked what has inspired him for all of these activities, Dr. Thao said it was the vision of Senator William Fulbright in bringing people and countries together.



Fulbright celebrates 10 years of the Vietnamese Scholar Program



Mr. James A. Warren gives an opening remarks

In his opening remarks at the anniversary, Mr. James A. Warren, Counselor for Public Affairs Section said *"It is important, I think, for those who know about, and care about, the Fulbright program to gather together from time to time to share their experiences, to discuss the benefits their programs have had for themselves and for Vietnam, and to consider the future of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. This 10th anniversary of the Senior Scholar Program is an ideal time to do this."*

From 1998 through 2008, the Fulbright Vietnamese Scholar Program has sent 70 scholars from different fields of study to the United States for research and/or lecturing.

Alumni of the Fulbright Vietnamese Scholar Program have made significant contributions to their institutions after returning from the United States. Credit-based educational administration and higher education accreditation have been among the important subjects researched by Fulbright Scholars.



Dr. Le Khuong Ninh receives his Certificate



Members of the Panel on Fulbright experiences



Members of the Panel on Fulbright networking

“Đồ đạc đi đôi” (Things That Come in Two) - An Art Show by Tammy Nguyen

On May 16, 2008, the Opening of Art Show “Đồ đạc đi đôi” (Things That Come in Two) by U.S. Student Ms. Tammy Nguyen was held at the University of Fine Arts in Ho Chi Minh City. This body of work was made during Tammy's first visit to Vietnam under the Fulbright Program. During 6 months in Vietnam, Tammy had considered the ways that people learn and perceive differently in the U.S. and in Vietnam. A Vietnamese daughter and an American, Tammy has been constantly unsettled about her biculturalism.



Silk and Thread 5
Ink and thread on silk, vinyl,
white paint, wood
59cm x 40cm

“In the United States, one synthesizes the world by comparing and contrasting one thing to the second in order to establish a position. I have noticed that in Vietnam, rather than synthesizing the world, one uses two things in order to maintain balance. For example, when one eats with a fork and knife, both utensils are used differently in order to eat. While one is eating, one is looking, deciding what to cut, what to pick up, what to leave behind— processing and thinking about what to do next. On the other hand, when one eats with a pair of chopsticks, both sticks are utilized to pick up food, which has already been cut into bite size pieces. The food is accepted as it is presented. With this body of work, I look to the ways that the Western and Eastern worlds deal with the concept “two”.

Through a self-invented iconography and/or mythology, I hope to present the juxtaposition of focus and balance in duality”. (by Tammy Nguyen)



*Bluish
Lacquer on wood*
122cm x 122cm



tuoi tre
online
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Một cô gái sinh ra và lớn lên ở Mỹ, lần đầu tiên về VN nhưng nói tiếng Việt khá lưu loát. Quần jean, áo thun giản dị. Tóc đen nhánh cột nòng. Đi dép lê let xet. Một tay cầm cò, một tay bưng hộp sơn, thi thoảng chúi cả bàn tay dính sơn vào người. Minh Tâm (ảnh) đang tất bật hoàn chỉnh những khâu cuối cùng cho cuộc triển lãm.

Sau khi giành được suất học bổng toàn phần bốn năm tại Trường Khoa học và nghệ thuật cao cấp The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art (New York), tháng 10-2007 Minh Tâm tiếp tục nhận học bổng Fulbright của trường dành cho sinh viên xuất sắc, được quyền chọn bất cứ quốc gia nào để nghiên cứu về mỹ thuật.

“Tôi muốn nghiên cứu về sơn mài - đôi mắt Minh Tâm chợt long lanh và đầy hào hứng khi nói đến sơn mài - một hình thức nghệ thuật độc đáo của riêng VN. Đó cũng là cơ hội để tôi tìm hiểu sâu hơn về văn hóa và cội nguồn của mình”, Tâm giải thích lý do cô quyết định về VN. Triển lãm Đồ đạc đi đôi (tại số 5 Phan Đăng Lưu, Q.Bình Thạnh, TP.HCM từ 16g ngày 16-5, kéo dài đến 30-5-2008) là kết quả của hơn sáu tháng trở về của cô gái Mỹ gốc Việt này.

MY LĂNG



A corner of the exhibition

Tin tức » Văn hóa » Đồ đạc đi đôi: Cuộc chuyện trò với... cột điện

Thứ Năm, 15 Tháng Năm 2008 06:08

Đồ đạc đi đôi: Cuộc chuyện trò với... cột điện

23 tuổi, lần đầu tiên về VN, Tammy Nguyen (Nguyễn Minh Tâm) sẽ có cuộc triển lãm Đồ đạc đi đôi (Things that come in two) tại Trường đại học Mỹ thuật TP.HCM.

Tại sao là “đồ đạc đi đôi”? Minh Tâm cho biết ý tưởng chủ đề bắt đầu từ một sự tình cờ, khi cô người thân nhờ chỉ giải thích về sự xuất hiện cán đôi của hai bức liễn. Đứng giữa hai nền văn hóa, Minh Tâm nhận thấy ở Mỹ người ta hay đưa ra hai vật để so sánh rồi chọn lựa cái tốt nhất. Còn ở VN, người ta thường dùng luôn cả hai cái như một sự cân bằng hiển nhiên, như chuyện dùng đũa để ăn vậy.

Nhưng thế giới trong Đồ đạc đi đôi không phải là thế giới của đồ vật gia dụng, mà đó là thế giới của... những cái cột điện. Tại sao là những cái cột điện? Như lời của Minh Tâm, từ khi về VN, sống ở Sài Gòn chỉ rất... ăn tương những cái cột điện. Song, cột điện không phải là chủ thể để mô tả, mà nó như một người bạn để chỉ “đất” theo mình, từ đó khởi đầu những cuộc trò chuyện.

Để dễ đời đất... cột điện theo mình, Minh Tâm đã... trồng nó vào những cái chậu. Có khi tách làm hai cán đôi, có khi chum vào nhau làm một. Những cột điện cũng là những cây, những người. Và cảm xúc được chọn và truyền đi bằng gam màu xám chủ đạo. Theo Minh Tâm, màu xám chính là màu của khí hậu VN, nhắc nhớ về màu của thời gian, màu mưa rơi, màu phố xá... Minh Tâm rất ưa dùng từ “nhắc” như một lời mời dịu dàng mà thoáng đạt.

Không chỉ có tranh sơn dầu, trong 38 tác phẩm được chọn triển lãm còn có tranh sơn mài và tranh thêu. Tất cả đều là... người bạn cột điện được đặt theo cùng những câu chuyện miền man. Không phải là những câu chuyện la lung mà rất đời bình thường. Bởi theo tác giả, khi một nghệ sĩ nhìn một sự bình thường thì mới có khả năng đi xa và sâu hơn trong những chặng hành trình.

VIỆT QUÊ



Tammy and her friends at HCMC Fine Arts University

Family Medicine Development in Rural Vietnam – From an U.S. Student's Research Perspective

For me as a Fulbright student, the process of conducting research on primary health care development in Vietnam has become a collection of experiences. There is an element to field work that demands of the investigator a familiarity and understanding of his or her subjects within a cultural context. During my time in Vietnam, I have learned well that without this familiarity, methodology can be faulty or misplaced.



Student Lucas Thornblade examines a patient in the teaching hospital at the University of Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy

As such, I have divided my time in Hue between a survey of post-graduate students in family medicine and my own observations of medical education and rural health care. By this, I aim to strike a balance between field research and my own appreciation of my subject within the frame of Vietnam.

I am fortunate to have made good ties with particular faculty at the University of Hue College of Medicine and Pharmacy. Beginning in September, I began an exchange with Dr. Nguyen Hai Thuy, the head of Internal Medicine. I have observed several days a week in his department, examining patients and talking through diagnosis. In return for this clinical experience, I help Dr. Thuy lead weekly medical English seminars for students and residents at the hospital.

I have also been working with Mr. Truong T. Khanh the director of the NGO Hue Help which, among other activities, organizes regular health clinics in rural and poor districts of Thua Thien Hue Province. Khanh has asked me to come and help the physicians at a number of clinics throughout this past fall. These clinics have been a useful way for me to observe the health care needs in Vietnam's rural setting.

In addition to my own study of the new training program in family medicine for rural physicians, I am preparing to administer the Primary Care Assessment Tool in Khanh Hoa Province this spring. In affiliation with the Vietnam Family Medicine Development Project, this tool aims to measure the quality of and access to primary level medical care as administered in Communal Health Clinics. It is our hope that the data from this study can help drive curriculum development for training of rural physicians.

On the whole, research is bound by the precision of methods. Placing the researcher directly in his or her field as the Fulbright program does, gives that researcher the best chance to hone their methods for an accurate and useful measurement.

Upcoming events

July 14, 2008

Evaluation session on U.S. Scholar and Students Programs

Representatives from Vietnamese host institutions

July 18-19, 2008

Pre-departure Orientation of 2008 Vietnamese Scholar Program

Upcoming grantees and alumni of the Vietnamese Scholar Program are invited to join

July 18 - August 18:

Fulbright Senior Specialist on Intellectual Property to Can Tho University

Prof. Scott J. Burnham

August 4 - 31, 2008

Orientation for English Teaching Assistant Program at Hanoi University of Education

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—Senator J. William Fulbright



Pre-departure orientation for 22 new grantees of the 2008 Vietnamese Student Program... story inside!