

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, 170 Ngoc Khanh
Ha Noi, Viet Nam*

From the Director

Dear friends,

Greetings and best wishes for the lunar new year from the Fulbright Office!

Fulbright Vietnam closed the year 2007 with some exciting events for both U.S. and Vietnamese grantees. In December, we had the honor to welcome Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas Farrell to visit Vietnam and meet with Fulbright staff. Fulbright alumni were also invited to an Alumni Reception hosted by the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam.

In January, the Fulbright Spring Orientation for U.S. grantees was held in HCMC to help them best prepare for and benefit from their program in Vietnam. Co-operation with Can Tho University, Hanoi University of Edu-

cation and Hue College of Sciences and support from Fulbright U.S. grantees was highly appreciated.

As for the Vietnamese Scholar Program, we are pleased to have selected seven finalists for AY 08-09. The Vietnamese Student Program is now welcoming applications for the 2009 competition with the deadline of April 4, 2008. We have been conducting information sessions throughout Vietnam to encourage more potential candidates to apply for the program. Another exciting component - the 2009 International Fulbright Science and Technology Ph.D. Scholarship has just been launched for open competition.

My final words for this spring



edition would come to the Fulbright staffing updates. The year 2007 ends with Ms. Jessy Needham's leaving the Fulbright Program and Ms. Do Thi Ngoc Ha's joining as the Fulbright Admin Clerk. Please join us to extend our sincere thanks to Jessy and Ha for having been and being parts of the Fulbright community.

Best regards,

Dr. Tran Xuan Thao

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Deputy Assistant Secretary Tom Farrell visits Vietnam and meets with Fulbright team



Thomas A. Farrell was named by President George W. Bush as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs in May 2002. In this capacity, he is responsible for all academic programs sponsored by the Department of State, these include the Fulbright Program for students, teachers, scholars and mid-career professionals in the Humphrey Program, Teacher Exchange Programs, English Language Programs, Study of the United States Programs. He serves as the Department of State's lead executive for programs and initiatives such as President Bush's National Security Language Initiative to promote quality teaching and mastery of critical need foreign languages.

In his visit to Vietnam on December 5-10, 2007, Mr. Farrell reserved two lengthy meetings with the Fulbright team. He particularly emphasized on the investment and cultivation for individuals. Many ideas on expansion of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam and English improvement for Vietnamese students came out of the meetings during Mr. Farrell's visit.



Welcoming Ms. Do Thi Ngoc Ha to the Fulbright Staff

Ms. Do Thi Ngoc Ha started working for the Fulbright Program in January 2008. In her position as the Fulbright Administrative Clerk, Ha provides administrative support for the activities and operations of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam.



Beginning her career as an academic officer at the Representative Office of Troy University in Vietnam, Ms. Do Thi Ngoc Ha has developed a strong interest in the field of Education. “My major is English but I choose to work in education as I believe I can enrich my knowledge in this interesting field”, Ha says.

After three years working for Troy, Ha decided to move to Language Link. In the same position but different workplace, Ha’s organizational, speaking and writing skills were significantly improved. “The most important I’ve learnt is customer services”, Ha says “Customer services play a critical role in measuring the success of a business. Education, in the modern times, is a business, and students/teachers are clients who should receive the best customer services”.

As a Fulbright staff member, Ha wants to join the team’s efforts to make the Fulbright Program more popular throughout Vietnam by means of customer services and access to information. “It would be great everybody knows about the Fulbright Program’s reputation that it is a prestigious, competitive, as well as open and transparent program”.

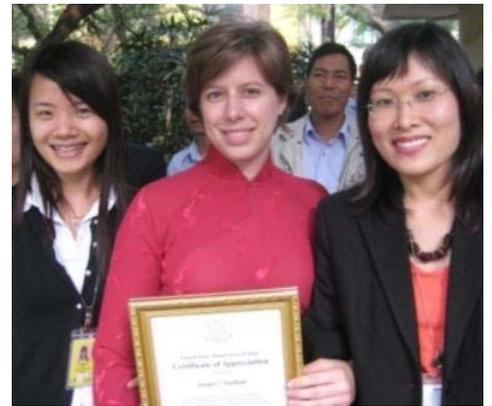
Ms. Do Thi Ngoc Ha earned her B.A. degree from VNU-HN College of Foreign Languages in 2002. When asked how she would describe herself, Ha says “easy-going, friendly, patient and talkative”.

Best wishes to Jessy Needham

Jessy Needham joined the Fulbright Program in Vietnam since April 2005 to manage the Vietnamese Student Program. Jessy is a professional and dedicate colleague, who works very well in a team toward the common critical success of the Fulbright program.

Jessy is highly motivated and helpful to the Fulbright grantees. Vietnamese students admire her willingness to reach out and try to assist them whenever possible. Here and there, alumni keep talking about Jessy as a very friendly and open person.

Starting from Jan. 1, 08, Jessy no longer works at Fulbright Program. We are thankful for her great work for Fulbright community and wish her all the best.



Jessy (middle) with her Certificate of Appreciation awarded by the U.S. Ambassador in December 2007

Spring Orientation for U.S. Grantees in HCMC

On January 15–16, 2008, Fulbright Program in Vietnam organized the second annual Orientation for U.S. grantees AY 2007-08. The Orientation was held at the U.S. Consulate in HCMC. The Orientation aimed to help grantees best prepare for and benefit from their stay and work in Vietnam. Consul General Mr. Ken Fairfax gave opening remarks and briefed the grantees on the current U.S. – Vietnam Relations.



Grantees enjoy the trip to Cu Chi Tunnel

Other Consulate officers gave briefings on the Political, Economics, Safety & Security issues, which grantees need to be aware of during their tenure in Vietnam. The grantees also joined an excursion tour to Cu Chi Tunnel and Cao Dai Temple in Tay Ninh Province to understand more the Vietnamese culture and people.



Consulate Officer at the briefing for grantees

2008 Vietnamese Scholar Selection

Peer Review Panel

In December 2007, the Fulbright Program held a Peer Review Panel (PRP) meeting to determine the list of semifinalists who will be interviewed for the Vietnamese Scholar Program AY 2008 - 2009. The selection meeting was held at Hanoi Daewoo Hotel and lasted for one full day and a half.

The PRP was made up of two Vietnamese scholars and four American scholars with expertise in different fields of study. Panel members were asked to rate each application based on three criteria of academic credentials, research proposal achievability, and significant contribution of the research topic to the academic and research field in Vietnam.

As a result of the Peer Review Panel meeting, the Panel agreed on the list of 8 primary and 3 alternates for the interview.

Interview

Eleven semifinalists were interviewed by Mr. James A. Warren, the U.S. Embassy's Counselor for Public Affairs and Dr. Tran Xuan Thao, the Fulbright Director. The interview was aimed to give the semi-finalists an opportunity to demonstrate their English language abilities through a discussion about their qualifications and research proposal. Seven candidates were selected as finalists. This year's group of finalists has a broad representation of fields of study and geographical areas.



Members of the Peer Review Panel



Mr. James A. Warren gives remarks at the Peer Review Panel meeting

Credit-based system: Co-operation of Fulbright Program and Hue College of Sciences

On Nov. 30, 2007: Fulbright Program in Vietnam and Hue College of Sciences co-organized a seminar on "Higher Education Credit-based System". There were 60 key administrators of the six colleges under the University of Hue, as well as from other colleges and universities in the middle of Vietnam such as Vinh University, Quang Binh University, Danang University.

At the seminar, the presenters addressed their current status, issues, and challenges before the implementation of credit-based system. Fulbright Director had a presentation on "Credit -based system in the U.S. and suggestions to Vietnam"



*Vice President of Hue University
Dr. Nguyen Duc Hung at the seminar*



Seminar on "Credit-based system"



Fulbright Director Dr. Tran Xuan Thao at the seminar

During Jan. 7-12, 2008: Dr. Nancy Maveety, a Fulbright scholar based at Shandong University, China, provided consultation on "Higher Education Credit-based system" at Hue College of Sciences. During the period, Dr. Maveety had several presentations to key faculty members on the status of college and its implementation of the credit-based system. Dr. Maveety also had consultations with different departments and centers of the College to address their detailed questions on the credit-based system. At the final meeting with college's management board, Dr. Maveety gave her recommendations to aid in this process and for the hosting of future foreign experts. Dr. Maveety is a professor of Political Sciences at Tulane University, U.S.

Co-operation activities with Can Tho University on Nov. 27-28, 07

After more or less two months of working together on the preparation, the Fulbright Program and Can Tho University (CTU) successfully co-organized the several activities at CTU include: The Enrichment Seminar for U.S. grantees, Open Forums and English Speaking Contest.

Enrichment Seminar for U.S. grantees

The goals of the Enrichment Seminar are not only primarily related to the Fulbright mission of creating mutual understanding, but also to provide U.S. grantees with a valuable personal and professional opportunity supplementing their academic programs and on-campus experiences. At the Enrichment Seminar in Can Tho, each of the seven U.S. grantees had 30 minutes to present his/her topic and another 15-20 minutes for discussion. All grantees presented their projects including background, opportunities and challenges. They also exchanged their personal experience in working with their Vietnamese hosts and partners. Grantees joined in the discussion and learned from the others' experiences.



Dr. Wilder shares her experiences

Open Forum



The Open forum created the opportunities for U.S. grantees to mingle and learn more about the Vietnamese culture and communities. It is also a good opportunity for the CTU faculty members and student to get to know more about the American culture and life. Two Open Forums were held at CTU:

- Open Forum between U.S. scholars and faculty members of CTU on the theme "Academic life in the U.S. and in Vietnam":
- Open Forum between U.S. students and CTU students on the theme "Student Life - Challenges and Experiences"



CTU faculty members at Open Forum



Left photos: Student Josh Glasser and Tammy Nguyen with CTU students at the Open Forum

English Speaking Contest and Fulbright Scholarships

The English Speaking Contest was organized as an extra activity to enhance the linkage between CTU and the Fulbright Program. On the other hand, it helped to promote the Fulbright Program and U.S education. At the final round, there were ten semi-final contestants and five of them received prizes from the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. Judges were Fulbright U.S. students and faculty members of English Dept. of CTU.

The Grand Prize covers school tuition for one year

The Second-Prize covers 75% of the school tuition

The Third-Prize covers 50% of the school tuition



One contestant presented his topic



Dr. Le Viet Dung, CTU Vice President, hands the certificates to the semi-finalist



Fulbright Director presents the prizes to the five winners

Fulbright Activities in Vietnam

International Education Week, Nov. 13 - 16, 2007

As part of the events of the International Education Week held by the Public Affairs Section to promote U.S. higher education to Vietnamese people, the Fulbright Director and Fulbright grantee talked to the audience.

1. Director of the Fulbright Program, Dr. Tran Xuan Thao introduced Fulbright Program in Vietnam. Emphasis was put on the openness and transparency of the Fulbright competition. Participants were inspired by specific examples and stories surrounding the Fulbrighters.



2. Nguyen Quang Hiep (left, in pink), a 2005 grantee shared experience of studies, student life and opportunities for knowledge expansion and enrichment in the United States.

Education Conference & Fair, Jan. 24 - 26, 2008

To help determine ways to better shape Vietnam's future through assistance to American educational activities, Ambassador Michael Michalak convened a groundbreaking event – *American Support for Education in Vietnam: A Brainstorming Conference for American Stakeholders*.

Designed as a forum for American stakeholders in education in Vietnam, this Conference attracted almost 200 representatives from American businesses, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations with significant educational programs in Vietnam.



A packed room with representatives from U.S. schools and Vietnamese visitors



Fulbright staff answers questions from the visitors

Following the success of the Education Conference and taking advantage of the presence of so many representatives of American schools, the U.S. Embassy also organized a U.S. Higher Education Fair on the day following the Conference, at which representatives from more than 20 American universities and colleges distributed information on studying in the U.S. to more than 800 interested Vietnamese students.

Around 200 visitors visited Fulbright promotion desk. Fulbright staff were present to answer and guide the visitors on specific programs, requirements and eligibilities. The Program will invite the visitors to future information sessions.

Profiles of U.S. Scholars in Vietnam

Dr. Carol Wilder is Professor of Media Studies and Film and former Chair and Associate Dean at The New School in New York. Her Fulbright project at Hanoi University (HANU) is "Digital Detente: An Online Curriculum Project"

As the Vietnam/American War recedes into history, the cultural divide persist. Few Vietnamese students study in U.S. universities, and few Americans have had contact with Vietnam part from tourism or war. Dr. Wilder proposed this project to design a joint online media-related course for HANU and The New School. During the grant period in Vietnam, Dr. Wilder gives lectures to students and consultation with faculty members to determine curricular interests and needs as part of advising on broader curriculum and program development. Dr. Wilder also teaches a related introductory film/media studies class.



Dr. Cary Trexler, Associate Professor in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and in School of Education at the University of California, Davis. His Fulbright project at Dai Hoc Nong Lam (HCMC Agriculture & Forestry University) is "Agricultural Education Reform in Vietnam: Building on Existing Relationships"

Because Vietnam's rapid agricultural development often comes with societal and environmental trade-offs that negatively impact its people, education and communication programs about sustainable development should offer the potential to help Vietnam with these pressing problems. With these ideas in mind, Dr. Trexler works with the University to re-design and modify its existing undergraduate programs. Besides his teaching load, Dr. Trexler strongly promotes collaborative projects between UC Davis and other Vietnamese agricultural universities.



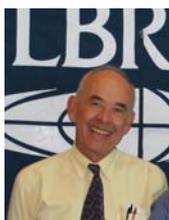
Dr. Michelle Zhrja, Associate Professor at Georgia Southern University. Her Fulbright project at VNU-HCMC College of Sciences is "Workshops in Pedagogical Tools and Sustainability Curriculum Development for Environmental Science"

With the understanding that Vietnam lies within the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, which is an area of important biological diversity under extreme human threat, Dr. Zhrja hopes that by providing innovative teaching tools of active, inquiry-based approaches, she will strengthen critical, synthetic thinking and cooperative decision-making skills for Vietnamese colleagues. She also helps faculty members in curriculum development, which has the potential to impact a broad group of people who investigate and make decisions about the natural resources of Vietnam.



Dr. Jim Cobbe, Professor of Economics at the Florida State University. His Fulbright project at Danang College of Business and Public Administration was titled "Development Economics and the Economics of Education."

During his ten month assignment in Danang, Dr. Cobbe has been teaching introductory micro and macro economics, both co-teaching with a Vietnamese colleague in the regular Vietnamese-language Business Administration program, and teaching in English on one of the College's cooperative English-language programs with a U.S. university. In addition, he is working with the Danang Institute of Economic Research on issues of education management; is assisting junior academic staff with the formulation and execution of research projects; helps the College with the drafting of applications for outside funding; and serves as a resource person in a general sense.



Dr. Nhut Tan Ho, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at California State University, Northridge. His Fulbright project at HCMC University of Economics is "Benchmarking Vietnam's IT-Engineering Programs for Curriculum Design"

Dr. Ho conducts a research project to create a complete and consistent set of goals for undergraduate education in Engineering and IT, with detail sufficient for understanding and implementation by Vietnamese faculty members. The project's innovative approach and results will help accelerate Vietnam's efforts to upgrade its education system.



Mr. Jamie Maxtone-Graham, freelance cinematographer. His Fulbright project at Hanoi Academy of Theater & Cinematography is "Hip-Hop Culture: Home Grown on Foreign Soil - 4000 Years of Vietnamese Culture Meets Grand Master Flash"

Mr. Maxtone-Graham plans to do a research project through photographs and interviews on contemporary youth culture in present day Vietnam against a backdrop of globalization. The work also creates a traveling exhibition and website of the photographs for public viewing and discussion in Vietnam and lead ultimately to publishing the results in a book. Jamie's work can be found at: www.flickr.com/photos/jamagram.



Profiles of U.S. Students in Vietnam

Tammy Nguyen's is affiliated to HCMC University of Fine Arts. Her Fulbright research project is "Vietnamese Oil Painting and Lacquer Painting as Social Metaphor"



Tammy received her B.F.A. from the Cooper Union School of Art in New York City. In Vietnam under the Fulbright grant, Tammy intends to make artwork in Vietnam which looks to Vietnam oil painting and lacquer painting. The juxtaposition of these two types of painting provide Tammy a lens to understand the power of traditionalism in Vietnam. Tammy keeps a blog about her work and experiences which can be found at <http://tammy-nguyen.com/vietnam/>

Josh Glasser is affiliated to Hanoi College of Social Sciences & Humanities. His Fulbright research project is "Microcredit, Migration, and Social Stability in Vietnam"



Josh graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with degrees in Political Science and Public Policy. In Vietnam, he studies the social impact of microcredit programs in rural Vietnam, with a focus on how microcredit can provide opportunities for the most disadvantaged families in the community. Josh wants to determine whether microcredit programs help these families overcome poverty and social exclusion in their communities, instead of undertaking high-risk migrations in search of work. Josh believes his study has implications for organizations and governments attempting to serve the poor and the socially isolated more effectively.

Evan Forward is affiliated to Can Tho University. His Fulbright research project is "Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in the Mekong River Basin in Vietnam".

Evan studied economics and environmental conflict resolution at the University of Vermont. During ten months in Can Tho, Evan will explore the pressing problems in land and water use in the Mekong River Basin (MRB) and evaluate the prevailing natural resource management approaches being applied to address these problems. Evan will conduct interviews with leaders of major local and regional stakeholder groups, NGOs, and academic institutions involved in MRB water management. By the end of his study, Evan hopes to be able to offer a critical assessment of the degree to which policy strategies being implemented in the management of the MRB are compatible with the IWRM objectives of social equity, economic vitality and environmental sustainability.



Lucas Thornblade is affiliated to Hue College of Medicine & Pharmacy. His Fulbright research project is "Family Medicine Development in Rural Vietnam"

As a biology major from Hamilton College, Lucas studies the establishment of family medicine as a practice in rural communal health centers of Vietnam. With the help from Vietnamese colleagues, Lucas explores the development of primary care which has become as standard for cost-effectiveness and quality in rural healthcare.



Conor Lauesen is affiliated to Hanoi College of Social Sciences & Humanities. His Fulbright research project is "Imagined Civility: Political Language of the State"

Conor recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with a degree in Political Science. Conor focuses on the politics of language in contemporary Vietnam. This work hones in on the use specific language of state policies most noticeable in newspapers, political slogans and public announcements around Ha Noi.



Jason Hoai Tran is affiliated to Han-Nom Institute in Hanoi. His Fulbright project research is "Nguyen Binh Khiem in Vietnamese Cultural Memory"



Jason is a Ph.D. student at Cornell University. This Fulbright research study of Jason will culminate in his coming Ph.D. dissertation. The research explores the remembrance of a 16th century poet, teacher, and itinerant statesman, Nguyen Binh Khiem, as held by 19th century Vietnamese. The study treats memory and Khiem's remembrance as a ground of contention. Jason's research will reveal how the ruling literary class constructed an elite remembrance of Khiem to counter alternative remembrances that potentially threatened their claims of legitimacy.

David Le is affiliated to Hanoi College of Social Sciences & Humanities. His Fulbright research project is "The Shape of Past and Future: State Monumentality in Hanoi"

David graduated from Vassar College in Religion. Under Fulbright grant, David wants to examine the visual culture of the state religion to understand what values Vietnam wishes to present, how it wishes to imagine its history, and what memory it chooses to preserve.



What I did on my Winter Vacation: Vietnamese Student/Scholar Experiences

Winter vacation up to three weeks is a great time for our Fulbrighters to relax and enjoy themselves after days of hard work. Gathering, traveling and sight-seeing are among the top choices. Let's find out how our Vietnamese Fulbrighters celebrated Christmas, New Year and Tet holidays in the U.S., and explore their exciting activities during the vacation.



Chau (Fulbrighter at MOU, with red cap) enjoyed a Christmas evening at the Matylus family in Bainbridge Island, WA



Hue Duong (left) and his friend Holly D.C. and were hosted by Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund



Playing an old riddle game that the Matylus family play every X'mas eve.



1

1 & 4: Lam Vien (Vietnamese Student) enjoying the sleet and a winter break with her friends

2. Dr. Nguyen Thi Kim Dung and Dr. Tran Thi Hoa enjoy a meal with friends

3. Dr. Quach Manh Hao (2007 scholar), his wife and son at Havard University



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5. Dr. Nguyen An Ha and his family in front of the White House

Camaraderie, Compassion and Courage: Fulbright Senior Specialist's Experience at Hanoi University of Education



Dr. Tosone and a colleague from Hanoi University of Education

Dr. Carol Tosone, Associate Professor from Silver School of Social Work, New York University came to Vietnam in November 2007. Being a Fulbright senior specialist in social work, Dr. Carol Tosone, a New York University Distinguished Teaching Award Recipient, shares her professional experience at Hanoi University of Education.

The warm and gracious greeting at the Hanoi airport by Professor Nguyen Thi Hoang Yen, Dean of the Faculty of Special Education (FSE) at Hanoi University of Education (HUE), and Professor Ngan Chu, set the tone for what was to become my most meaningful and memorable travel experience. As I arrived at HUE to a luxurious room decorated with flowers and all the necessities of home and office, it was clear that they had anticipated all of my personal and professional needs.

I taught two classes “*Individual and Group Trauma Interventions for Populations at Risk*” and “*Short-term Treatment Interventions,*”, and what impressed me most about the students was their

ability to grasp difficult theoretical concepts and apply them to an understanding of their cases. The videos, role play, and small group discussions gave them opportunities to compare Vietnamese and American treatment approaches, and to decide what was central to Vietnamese social work practice that could not be replaced by the more direct, confrontative American method. As our time together came to a close, they expressed appreciation for my lectures, but I took away so much more from them: respect for elders and traditions, humbleness, determination, the sense of community as a curative agent, and of course witnessing camaraderie, compassion and courage in action.

My time in Hanoi ended in as special way as it began and continued throughout the visit. Welcome dinners, thank you lunches, receptions, excursions, home visits, and sightseeing were almost daily events, all delivered with that special Vietnamese warmth and generosity of spirit. Parenthetically, I would like to extend very special thanks to the President of HUE for his attendance at many of these unforgettable events despite his busy schedule. I came away from that gathering with an even deeper appreciation of the positive impact that the program has on the lives of all that it touches, both American and Vietnamese, and in this particular instance, on the clients each of us serve. I am honored and deeply humbled to be part of the Fulbright Vietnamese family, and my remembrances will last a lifetime.



Dr. Tosone and Dr. Tran Xuan Thao at the certificate award ceremony

How U.S. grantees socialize with Vietnamese people



1: Cary Trexler and students on Teachers Day

2: Evan Forward learns to make Banh Tet

3: Jim Cobbe with a group of students at his house during Tet



4: Michelle Zjhra and student at Can Gio Biosphere Reserve



5: Josh Glasser and a family in Tinh Gia, Thanh Hoa during his field trip

6: Banh Tet are ready to give to the poor families in the Mekong Delta



Vietnamese grantees featured in local media

"There's more than one way to learn about Vietnam" from Fulbright Scholar In-Residence Le Huy Hoang

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NWC News Desk

Thursday, December 20, 2007

There's more than one way to learn about Vietnam this spring from Northwest's Fulbright scholar

P O W E L L W y e . — Fulbright scholar Hoang Le Huy is hoping his stay in America will be a two-way street when it comes to information sharing. Hoang will teach a three-credit evening class, "Vietnam in the World," this spring at Northwest College, but he's also hoping for opportunities to interact with area community and civic groups.



Le Huy Hoang is an economics scholar at Tra Vinh University in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam and also works as the assistant to the president of the Vietnamese Association of Community Colleges.

Hoang has become a friend of Northwest College (NWC) through a trip where he was an interpreter and guide as

NWC visited five Vietnamese community colleges throughout the country. NWC was very impressed by him. Harriet Bloom-Wilson, an assistant professor of French and international student recruiter and advisor at NWC initiated the Fulbright Program-In-Residence proposal that brought him to America.

Fulbright scholar Le Huy Hoang is hoping his stay in America will be a two-way street when it comes to information sharing. Hoang will teach a three-credit evening class, "Vietnam in the World," this Spring at Northwest College, but he's also hoping for opportunities to interact with area community and civic groups.



Visiting professor brings Vietnam to Powell

By DOR AMBIC
Photo by Jeff White

Hoang Le Huy has several goals he wants to accomplish during the next few months.

Hoang, who teaches at Tra Vinh University in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam, arrived last week to spend a semester as a visiting professor at Northwest College. There, he will teach a three-hour class, "Vietnam in the World," on Monday evenings.

Like most visitors to Wyoming, Hoang is anxious to taste western life by seeing the sights, especially Yellowstone Park, and getting acquainted with the people. High on his list is the chance to ride a horse.

His primary goals, though, are to help build a collaborative program between Tra Vinh University and NWC, bring the story of modern Vietnam to NWC and take his experience here back to Vietnam to benefit Tra Vinh University and other community colleges in his country.

"In Vietnam, we believe the U.S. and other countries have good education. More and more Vietnamese students study abroad," Hoang said. "I can learn a lot from teaching U.S. students that will improve teaching techniques to our students."

He also is interested in learning about the relationship of the Powell community with NWC.

"The community works with the school," Hoang said. "I don't have experience about collaboration between the college and the community in Vietnam."

Hoang's visit is the result of a 2006 trip to Vietnam by NWC International Student Recruiter and Advisor Harriet Bloom-Wilson and Vice President for



Hoang Le Huy, a visiting professor from Tra Vinh University in Vietnam, will teach a class about his country at Northwest College on Monday evenings this semester.

"Vietnam in the World" is a result of the collaboration among American and Vietnamese faculties of Northwest College and member institutions of the Vietnam Association of Community Colleges. Hoang said he wants to bring "American participants closer to the real Vietnam with all the richness and exclusiveness of the history, culture, religion, society and family value and the diversity of the country which interact to produce the rapid rise in personal and national economic prosperity and international influence." Using an abundance of images, objects and material, Hoang said he wants his students to "feel the breath" of Vietnam.

(Sources: NWC News, Powell Tribune)

Closing Doors to the Past to Open the Future

Vinh Huy, Fulbrighter of AY 06-08, accompanied his Director as an Assistant and Interpreter on the trip visiting State of Washington in March, 2007 to establish the relationship between Cao Thang Technical College in HCMC, and Olympic College in Bremerton, Washington.



Huy Vinh (right) and representatives from Cao Thang Technical College in HCMC and Olympic College in Bremerton

Huy was excited about the collaboration efforts "The collaboration program between our schools will help our school in Vietnam". As an interpreter, Huy successfully conveyed the message by Tran Van Thanh, an official from Vietnam's Ministry of Industry "Vietnam has closed the door to the past... Nothing about the war affects the relationship between the two countries".

Huy also had a wonderful opportunity to meet Secretary of State of Washington at his office in Olympia, the capital city of State of Washington. Huy's thoroughly enjoyed the life in the United States since arriving. "Everything is quite different, people here are so friendly", Huy said "I have had a good time so far".

(Sources: Kitsapsun News, Bremerton Patriot News)



Vinh huy, in the middle, conveying the message of collaboration for mutual benefits between the two colleges

State Department Alumni reception at Ambassador's residence



On December 19, 2007, Ambassador Michalak hosted a reception for alumni of U.S. State Department Exchange programs at his residence. For the first time, alumni of the Fulbright Program, Humphrey Program, Study of the U.S. Institutes Program, International Visitors Program, and International Writer's Program gathered together in one place to meet and share their experiences with one another. Over 55 Hanoi-based alumni attended the event, from a variety of sectors, including government, business, academia, and the arts. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Michalak recognized the alumni's achievements and encouraged them to continue promoting the values of their exchange program in Vietnam. He announced the creation of a "Vietnamese Community" webpage on the State Alumni website (<https://alumni.state.gov>) and also mentioned the possibility of future Embassy funding for alumni projects. The event lasted more than an hour and a half, and was full of lively conversation and renewals of friendships.





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"The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship."

—Senator J. William Fulbright

New Grant Announcement AY 2009 - 2010

Vietnamese Student Program

In December 2007, the Fulbright Program in Vietnam announced the 2009 Fulbright Vietnamese Student Scholarship Program. The 2009 successful candidates will pursue a Master's degree program that begins in the academic year 2009-2010. Grantees will receive tuition and fees, monthly stipend, round-trip airfare to the U.S. and health insurance.

In the 2009 competition, to encourage the younger applicants to apply, the required work experience has been reduced to one year calculated from the date of the undergraduate diploma by the application deadline. Candidates must submit an application package including: application form, 3 letters of reference, photocopies of diplomas and transcripts, and TOEFL score report.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Hanh, the Program Assistant, will travel across the country to promote the program.

The application deadline is April 4, 2008.

International Fulbright Science and Technology Ph.D. Scholarship

Sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, the Scholarship is among the most prestigious international scholarships in science and technology. Approximately 40 grants will be awarded worldwide to candidates who demonstrate unique aptitude and innovation in scientific fields. Scholarship recipients will start the Ph.D. degree program in academic year 2009-2010.

The Scholarship recipients receive assistance in gaining admission to prestigious U.S. institutions and three years of fiscal support which includes: academic tuition and fee coverage, a monthly living stipend, book and supplies allowance, conference and research allowances, health and accident coverage, round trip airfare from home country to the United States, and specially tailored enrichment activities.

The application is due May 9, 2008.

Further information about these programs can be found on the website: <http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/fulbright.html>



Ms. Nguyen Thi Hanh presents an information session at the National Library