

Chào Fulbright

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 by Senator J. William Fulbright. The program is active in over 150 countries worldwide. The Fulbright Program in Vietnam began in 1992, with the establishment of the Vietnamese Student Exchange 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 Ngọc Khanh, Hanoi, Vietnam*

News from the Director

Greetings from the Fulbright Office in Hanoi! I am pleased to introduce the latest issue of our newsletter, part of our ongoing effort to promote connections between our program participants, alumni, and key partners.

The Fulbright Program is best known for its scholarship programs for study, lecturing and research in the U.S. and Vietnam. Inside, you will find stories and photos of the unforgettable experiences our Vietnamese and American students and scholars are having during their year abroad.

In addition to scholarships, the Fulbright program also works extensively with institutions in Vietnam to host seminars and workshops on issues related to education. In addition to the community college conference

highlighted below, we have recently supported conferences on university accreditation and quality assurance. In April and May, we co-host a conference on English learning at Haiphong Private University, and another symposium on Developing Comparative Education in Vietnam at the Institute for Educational Research in HCMC.

The success of these initiatives is due not only to our collaboration with local partners, but also to the participation of U.S. Fulbright grantees. We strive to make connections between our U.S. grantees and Vietnamese partners, to ensure that the impact of the Fulbright fellowship extends beyond the grant year. One example of a successful connection is Dr. Frank Biafora,



who will return to Vietnam this May to follow-up on initiatives begun during his 3-week Senior Specialist grant last October.

The final pages of the newsletter are devoted to our dynamic group of alumni. Alumni are key to promoting the goals of the Fulbright program to the wider community in Vietnam. We look forward to creating more programming for alumni in the upcoming year, and we hope to see you soon at our events.

Best wishes,

Dr. Tran Xuan Thao

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Community College Conference in Kien Giang

With the assistance of former Fulbright senior scholar Dr. Sandra Engel (Mohawk Valley Community College), Kien Giang Community College sponsored the conference "American-Vietnamese Community College Conference: Expanding our capacity" from March 27-28 in Rach Gia, a province in southern Vietnam. Approximately 100 people attended the conference, including representatives from 15 universities and community colleges in Vietnam, Tonia Weik, Assistant Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, and several U.S. specialists in the field of higher edu-



cation, including Dr. Sandra Engel. Dr. Engel was a Fulbright visiting scholar to Vietnam in 2002 and has been instrumental in establishing relations between the Association of American Community Colleges and the newly-founded Vietnamese Association of Community Colleges.

The goals of the conference were to provide updated infor-

mation about the Vietnamese community college regulations and mission, review the characteristics of the American community college model, and further develop relationships between institutions.

Vietnamese college representatives also outlined plans for the future, including teacher training and curriculum development in IT and business administration, identification of opportunities for VACC faculty to study in the U.S. for advanced degrees, and future conferences to create partnerships between VACC and U.S. enterprises in Vietnam.

Vietnamese Scholar Program Update

2007 Program:

7 finalists have been approved by the Fulbright Scholarship board for participation in the 2007 Vietnamese Scholar Program, in fields such as Economics, Agriculture, Education, and Biological Sciences. The scholars will spend 6-9 months doing research at a U.S. university. The Fulbright program is working closely with the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) to finalize university placements in the U.S.

2008 Program:

The 2008 Vietnamese Scholar Program was announced in April. The Fulbright program will offer information sessions about the program at a variety of locations throughout Vietnam. If you are interested in attending a session, please email Ms. Do Thu Huong at dohx@state.gov for information regarding dates and locations.

Applications for the 2008 Vietnamese Scholar Program are available at: <http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/fvsc.html>

The application deadline is October 15, 2007.



Ms. Do Thu Huong presents an information session for the Vietnamese Scholar Program

Applications for the 2008 Vietnamese Scholar Program are now available on the Fulbright website. The deadline is October 15, 2007.

Vietnamese Student Program Update

2007 Program

20 finalists for the 2007 program were selected in Fall 2006 and are currently awaiting their placement at a U.S. university. The finalists represent more than 12 different fields of study, including American Studies, Business, Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL), International Relations, and Journalism. We are also pleased to have finalists from a variety of provincial areas, including Hue, Quang Tri, and An Giang, in addition to finalists from Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Finalists will travel to Ha Noi in May to participate in a 2-day pre-departure orientation, where they will join Ambassador Michael Marine for a dinner at his residence.



Fulbright student alumni share their experiences at the 2006 Pre-Departure orientation for new Vietnamese student grantees

2008 Program:

Recruitment for the 2008 program began in October 2006, when the program announcement and preliminary data form were posted on the Fulbright website. This year, an additional criterion for the Vietnamese Student Program was prior completion of a TOEFL exam, with a minimum score of 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based). 180 Candidates passed the first-round screening and are eligible to fill out the formal Fulbright application. Applications were due on April 27. The program will select 45-50 semifinalists for interviews in September 2007.



Applicants attend an information session for the Vietnamese Student Program at Can Tho University

U.S. Student and Scholar Program Updates

Fulbright Enrichment Seminar in Dong Thap

At the end of November 2006, The Fulbright Program held a series of activities in cooperation with Dong Thap University in southern Vietnam, including enrichment seminars for the U.S. grantees, open forums between the U.S. Scholars and students and the faculty and students at the university, and an English contest for the Dong Thap University students.

U.S. Fulbrighters shared their research experiences in Viet Nam with each other in a day-long enrichment seminar. Topics included microfinance projects, agrarian transformation in upland areas, integrated pest management, economics instruction, contemporary art in Vietnam and mechatronics research.

During the open forums, U.S. scholars and students joined Dong Thap university faculty and students in a free exchange of question and answers about life in the U.S. and the programs that Fulbright provides in Vietnam.

“Although many students were shy about asking questions,” a U.S. student said, “the small size of the groups gave them the opportunity to interact with Americans at a personal level.”

With funding from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy, the Fulbright Program and the University co-organized an English contest, entitled “English for a Better Vietnam.” 13 students participated in the contest and gave presentations on wide-ranging topics, including the art of teaching, improving English skills, the WTO and developments in education, and student ambitions. The U.S. Fulbrighters acted as judges for the event. At the end of the visit, the Department of Foreign Languages organized a Gala Night, including dances and a fashion show.

In addition to providing a wonderful opportunity for Fulbright grantees to meet as a group and learn more about a remote area of Vietnam, the Fulbright

event was the first time that Dong Thap university had organized such a program with a foreign counterpart.

The U.S. grantees were enthusiastic about the seminar and the chance to see a different part of the country. “Dong Thap was an interesting setting, and it was good to become acquainted with this remotely located university. They face different challenges than those of the urban universities, and it is useful for us to see this,” commented one U.S. scholar.



“The Enrichment Seminar allowed me to reconnect with other Fulbright Fellows and hear about their work. It was very stimulating and enlightening to hear of their research, their aspirations, and their plans to be ambassadors to Viet Nam. Everyone brought a unique contribution to the effort. I am very glad to be a part of the broader Fulbright network.”

*—Tho Nguyen, '06-07
U.S. Student grantee, Can Tho University*



U.S. Fulbright students judge the English contest

Fulbright Open Forum at Binh Duong University



During the January 2007 orientation for new U.S. grantees in Ho Chi Minh City, seven U.S. Fulbright students and scholars traveled to nearby Binh Duong University to participate in two Open Forum sessions with university faculty members and students.



Vietnamese Fulbright Experiences in the U.S.

Vietnamese students enjoy Enrichment Seminars



Le Thi Thu Hang (U. Kansas), Vinh Huy (Southern Illinois U.), and Dang Thi Phuong Trang (Texas A&M) visit Red Rocks State Park, outside of Denver, Colorado



Le Hoang Nam (U. Pittsburgh) enjoys the beach in Miami, Florida

From February to April 2007, the U.S. Department of State sponsored eight 4-day enrichment seminars for first-year foreign Fulbright students. This year the seminars focused on the theme of "Leadership and Public service." Students engaged in panels and workshops, visited elementary and middle schools, and had an opportunity to visit historical sites and national parks. Locations for the seminar included Miami, Chicago, San Antonio, Philadelphia, Denver, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC.



Nguyen Thi Ngan (Ohio U.), Tran Thi Yen Dinh (U. Rochester), Pham Thi Thu Phuong (Penn State) and Tran Mai Hien (U. Massachusetts) reunite at the New York City enrichment seminar



Pham Thi Hoa (SUNY Buffalo), with international Fulbright friends at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas

We had a very wonderful time, especially meeting a lot of Fulbrighters from around the world, some of them coming from the countries I have never heard of before. They are all very interesting people. The Fulbright group is a genuine multicultural, intellectual pool. And the New York seminar is a great chance for meeting, sharing, learning, networking and enjoying. I also liked the public school visit, which enhanced my knowledge with practical experience. There we learned about a part of New York city which a normal visitor would never know about. It was definitely an unforgettable experience. —Tran Mai Hien, FB '06

Vietnamese scholars learn about U.S. History

Dr. Ngo Huu Hoang (2nd from left, Johns Hopkins University) visits Mount Vernon, the home of first U.S. President George Washington, near Washington, D.C.



Dr. Nguyen Thi Hoang Yen (NYU) joins a tour to "Discover Harlem" in New York City. The Harlem neighborhood has a rich history of African-American culture. Tour guide Anthony Bowman is a specialist in the history of Black Manhattan, Gospel music, soul food, and jazz.



Nguyen Minh Tuan, Fulbright student 2006-08, joins a ski trip

The trip was held by the Georgia Baptists on two days from Jan 26 to Jan 27, 2007 and sponsored by the state Baptist Campus Ministry's International Student Outreach Program. While the religious component of this trip was very small, it was mainly for international students at academic institutions in Georgia, such as Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, and University of Georgia, to meet and share experiences with each other. Skiing and snowboarding were the main activities since this was an event for relaxation and enjoyment. The meeting consisted of more than one hundred international students from more than 30 countries. We all went by buses and cars from Atlanta and Athens to Cataloochee, part of the Maggie Valley, in the middle of the stunning Great Smoky Mountains, North Carolina. It was very awesome because this was the first time I went skiing at the ski school. I fell many times but it did not hurt me at all. At anytime there was always someone who was ready to give me a hand and help me stand up to try again. That made me happy and I made a lot of new friends on that memorable trip.



Nguyen Minh Tuan is from Ho Chi Minh City. He is currently pursuing his Master's in Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Letter from Hue, by Maile Ornellas, U.S. Scholar, 2006-07

Dear colleagues,

I want to say hello and send news to you from Vietnam about my Fulbright experience here. With the help of Dr. Thao Tran, Director of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, my daughter Maia and I are happily settling into a beautiful art, light and breeze-filled home in a family neighborhood, within walking distance to Hue University, where I teach. The owner and his family live next door. Their 4-year-old daughter comes over daily to help Maia feed the fish in the pond in the living room. The children enjoy playing together and we're getting to know the neighbors, who stroll about and talk with each other in the evening.

The teaching is exciting. Just this year Hue University received approval for a new major in American Studies. The representatives from the U.S. Embassy whom I've met have expressed enthusiasm for the new program and the opportunities it provides for building better understanding between the USA and Vietnam. My job as a Fulbright Scholar involves training faculty in the new curriculum. Additionally, I was asked to teach my course, "Race and Ethnicity in Contemporary American Film", to every single 3rd year student in their entire major degree program. I proposed an adapted version and agreed to teach to all 240 students. So, I teach 3 large sections of a 10-week adapted multicultural film course and devote the rest of the time to faculty training and participation in conferences.

I am now concluding my third week of teaching and student response has been overwhelmingly positive. I've screened "Mi Familia" and "Thanh's War" to date and assigned the novel "Bone," by Fae Ng, about the contemporary Chinese-American experience in San Francisco, which thematically ties in with the films in the course. March 8th is National Woman's Day in Vietnam, and my students greeted me with a bouquet of flowers in honor of the holiday! The classes are organized by student monitors, who handle the rosters, and miscellaneous things faculty need. To facilitate discussion, I ask students to discuss points in small groups and then bring written questions forward to the monitors, who bring them to me. I find their questions interesting and challenging. For example: "Do most American believe, like the character Maria in *Mi Familia*, that the police did not kill Chucho, but rather the spirit of the river took him?" And, a follow-up question, after talking about religion and the role of scientific thought in American culture, "If American education teaches the scientific method, why do you state "In God We Trust" on your money?" From my experiences, I think the Fulbright Program is truly wonderful and I am grateful to be a small part of a much larger process of building international understanding.

I'm also pleased to say that my 4 and a half year old daughter, Maia, is happily adjusting to living in Hue. We are enjoying learning more Vietnamese language and particularly singing Vietnamese children's songs. It's a delight watching her sing in Vietnamese and getting cab and cyclo drivers, restaurant owners, waitresses, shop girls, her new friends and their parents all singing along with her. Maia visited Hue University at the end of my class last week and sang two songs for my students, one in English, one in Vietnamese, to heartfelt applause. Maia clearly has an ear for language and enjoys correcting me on my pronunciation and charming just about everyone she meets. A few days ago someone asked my 4 1/2 year old daughter whether she liked Berkeley, (California) better or Vietnam. "Both," she replied.

In conclusion, I'd like to encourage my friends and colleagues to visit Vietnam. I really love Hue. It's a beautiful old city, the ancient capitol of Vietnam, more rural, far less motorbike traffic, fewer cars, than HCMC or Hanoi. There are two rivers through the city, the large Perfume River and a smaller one, near where I live and teach. The city is full of old beautiful gates and the pagodas, Citadel and Purple Forbidden City are interesting to explore.

That's my news for now. With kind regards, Maile Ornellas



Maile Ornellas with her daughter, Maia

Maile Ornellas is a Fulbright Scholar working in the American Studies Department at Hue University's College of Foreign Languages. She is from Berkeley, CA, where she is a professor at Solano Community College in the department of Film and Television.



Calligraphy as a Cultural Prism, by Anh Chi Pham, U.S. Student, 2005-06



*Anh Chi Pham,
from Orange County,
CA, was a U.S.
Fulbright Student
based in Ho Chi
Minh City during the
2005-2006 academic
year.*

When I wrote the scene with the little girl, Dao, taking calligraphy lessons for the first time, I took my watercolor brushes and held them in my hand; I imagined what it was like to form beautiful letters. In Ho Chi Minh City, I copied my character and studied calligraphy or *thu phap*. The class has taught me more than brushwork. Through interactions with my teacher and fellow students, I'm learning the nuances of Vietnamese culture.

In class, we often discuss literature, which poems or *cau doi* should we write this week? Invariably, Chu Vien Ngo, the teacher, or the other two students—all three are men in their fifties or sixties—would recite their favorite passages from songs and poems, many are often from their youth. *Ngam tho* or the recitation of poetry is a common practice here. This is partially due to the emphasis on memorization and oral modes of

learning, but on a practical level, *ngam tho* is also way of gauging someone's education, politics, and taste. Mostly though, it's a reflection of the national character: Vietnamese are poets at heart.

They believe that words inherently carry meaning and power, which most in the advertising-saturated, spin-savvy West would find naïve. One of Chu Vien Ngo's clients was so happy with the *cau doi*, a pair of scrolls inscribed with two inter-related proverbs, that she paid him almost three times the commissioned price! She was convinced that the words honoring parental deeds and efforts would ensure peace and tranquility in her home. For her, those words had *tam hon* or soul and were capable of positively affecting behavior. As I gaze at the model words that are hanging on my wall: *duc* (virtue, righteousness), *tam* (center, heart, soul), and *tin h lang* (inner silence), I wonder if she is right; beauty can heal.

In the group, sometimes the teacher calls me *chau* or niece, sometimes *em* or little sister. I refer to him as teacher or uncle, but I call the other students—one is ten years older than the teacher—*anh* or older brother. I laugh at the confusion. Constricted by language and familial models of behavior, Vietnamese must

still adapt to the complex relationships that are found in modern institutions and situations. If our class is any indication, the Vietnamese are finding a way. Despite our disorderly terms of address, underlying our interactions is a spirit of egalitarianism. No matter our age or skill level, the four of us are equally dedicated to learning.

Like other traditional arts, *thu phap* is enjoying a renaissance. Calligraphic fonts are used on store fronts and food packaging, exhibitions and galleries thrive especially during holidays, scrolls and framed pieces are prized gifts among the cultured, and more and more people make a living selling their penmanship, but this popularity doesn't come without a price. My teacher worries that commercialism devalues the art, but for each person who is selling copycat words, there are others who are true to the craft and develop their own unique style. One local artist uses sharp lines that evoke Egyptian hieroglyphs; Chu Vien Ngo creates unique and inventive pictures out of words: a dove out of the word *peace*, a mountain range for *peace of mind*. As I gaze at the clear simple lines of this picture, I can see that the contemplative principles behind this art are alive and well in bustling Saigon.



U.S. Student researches forest land allocation in Vietnam

Cari Coe is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles. During her Fulbright grant, she is conducting her dissertation research on the topic of forest land allocation on the edge of Tam Dao national park. As part of the research, she has conducted surveys with rural households living in the buffer zone of the national park, which lies in the provinces of Vinh Phuc, Thai Nguyen and Tuyen Quang in northern Vietnam. During the survey, Cari asks households about their agricultural and forest land use rights and their opinions about the allocation of forest use rights in their community. Her dissertation will explore how decentralization of land administration affects implementation of national forest policy. In particular, she hopes to understand how property rights and conceptualizations of distributive justice influence the management of forest land at the local level.



Cari Coe interviews the head of a household in Vinh Phuc province

Senior Specialist Dr. Frank Biafora

By any measure, my Fulbright Senior Scholar award to Vietnam in the fall of 2006 was a resounding success, fulfilling my personal and professional expectations and laying the foundations of trust and understanding for future collaboration. To be sure, I made many new friends and established important connections that will undoubtedly endure and grow over my lifetime. I will never



forget sharing a meal with a group of freshmen in the student cafeteria on my first night at the Hanoi University of Education (HUE) and singing traditional Vietnamese folk music late into the evening in my dorm room. Nor will I soon forget the mixed emotions of pride and hope I felt when a group of young Vietnamese women in an English language class told me of their dreams to one day study in America and return with skills to help create new opportunities for all Vietnamese women. And, I still reminisce of the stirring emotions I felt on my last night when the president of HUE,

Dr. Nguyen Viet Thinh, and I shared parting gifts and sang our respective national anthems. I know that I came away with a great deal more personally, professionally and spiritually, than I had ever imagined.

The Fulbright team in Hanoi, under the direction of Dr. Tran Xuan Thao, was very generous with their time and helped me to accomplish what I had set out to do: 1) offer a broad introduction of American higher education principles and philosophies to university administrators and faculty at the HUE, 2) explore with the psychology faculty a modern curriculum map and research agenda for their newly emerging counseling and clinical psychology programs, and; 3) engage in sociological research exploring the impact of rapid socio-economic modernization on the attitudes, perceptions and behaviors of Vietnamese youth. Looking back at these original goals now, I realize that this is just the tip of the broader iceberg of accomplishments.

Since my return from Vietnam, I have continued to build upon these initial objectives and accomplishments. In December, 2006, the President of HUE visited my university (St. John's University) in New York and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for student and faculty exchange. In light of this momentum, I will be returning to HUE this summer with about one dozen psychology graduate students and a group of eight faculty members. Our shared goal is to continue to work with the psychology department of HUE and launch the 1st Annual International Psy-



chology Conference in Vietnam with student and faculty presentations. Additionally, I will be returning to Vinh University with three St. John's Biology professors. Vinh, located on the North Central coast of Vietnam, is the hometown of a young Ho Chi Minh. Our shared goal is to pave the way for a MOU between Vinh and St. John's universities that will open the door for exciting and unlimited collaborative opportunities in the biological and agricultural sciences.

In 1946, Senator J. William Fulbright had a august dream and vision that harmonious relationships among and between nations could be actualized once educational partnerships took hold through intellectual and cultural exchange. I know first-hand that this vision is within our reach, and I am grateful and honored to have been given this opportunity by the Fulbright Senior Scholar's program to play a small part in fostering Senator Fulbright's vision of a collective and harmonious future.

Dr. Frank Biafora is Associate Dean of Graduate Arts and Sciences and Associate Professor of Sociology, St. John's University in New York.

In-Country Lecturing Program: Dr. Robert McNown & Dr. Karen Turner



The Fulbright Program's ongoing In-Country Lecture series is designed to respond to the growing needs of local institutions for the expertise of U.S. Scholars. Trips range from between 2-5 days and are jointly sponsored by the Fulbright program and the host institution. This program offers scholars a unique opportunity to work with a variety of institutions and experience life in different areas in Vietnam.

In October, 2006, Dr. Robert McNown (University of Colorado) traveled to Hue and Binh Duong to present lectures on open source software for econometrics, free trade agreements, and Dr. McNown's U.S. presidential election prediction model. Attendance at the seminars ranged from 150-200 people.

Dr. Karen Turner (College of Holy Cross) delivered a seminar on "Gender Theory in the 21st Century" for faculty members at Hanoi College of Social Sciences & Humanities in October, 2006. The seminar was very well received by more than 40 participants. She also gave a seminar on gender issues in a global world to the Department of Sociology at the College of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City in November.



"For me, the most valuable aspect of the experience was that I could begin to understand the difference between the status of woman and the discourse about gender in northern and southern Vietnam." —Dr. Karen Turner

Tam Dao Reunion Seminar, September 2006

This past fall, recently-returned Fulbright Vietnamese Student program grantees participated in a new initiative by the Fulbright program: a reunion seminar. The purpose of the seminar was to allow grantees to reunite with other members of their cohort and share experiences from their study in the U.S. and their return to the U.S. 15 grantees participated in the program, from the 2004 and 2005 academic year cohorts.

The seminar was held from September 16 to 17, 2006 in the hill station town of Tam Dao, in northern Vinh Phuc province. For most of the day, grantees shared stories from their time in the U.S., and Fulbright program staff also presented information about alumni activities and initiatives in Vietnam. The Fulbrighters had free time in the evening to explore Tam Dao and reconnect with each other, before a group dinner and evening of karaoke. The next day, many members of the group participated in an early morning hike before returning to Hanoi for a farewell luncheon.



The Fulbright program looks forward to organizing future reunions for recently-returned grantees. The next seminar will be in September 2007, and all grantees from the 2005 and 2006 cohorts will be invited to attend. See you then!



Comments from participants:

"It was a great seminar. I found it interesting, informative, and useful."

"I appreciate so much the chance to talk about whatever we have in our mind, in our heart from the U.S. experience."

Where are they now? Featured alumnus: Mr. Le Van Khoi, Vietnamese Student Program, 1993-94

Mr. Le Van Khoi is the Public Affairs & Communications Manager for Coca-Cola Indochina, Inc., responsible for all public affairs, media and community activities in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. He holds a BA in English Teaching from Hue University and a Master's in Public Administration from Syracuse University, Maxwell School. He was a recipient of the Fulbright Student grant from 1993-1994. Originally from Hue, Mr. Khoi lives in Ho Chi Minh City with his wife and 2 children.



What do you remember most about your Fulbright experience in the U.S.?

There were many positive things to remember. But if I have to cite only one thing then I will say that's "the people I met". From the very beginning, when I applied for the Program until I completed my study and went back to Vietnam, there were always people around who helped me. As a Fulbrighter, I experienced various things: paper work, interview, orientation, first arrival in the US, house rent seeking, house moving, going to school, assignment deadlines, homesickness, school pressures, etc. that many times I didn't think that I could overcome. But thank God, there were always nice and helpful people around to help. They were from Fulbright, IIE, my housemates, my classmates, my professors or they were just helpful strangers.

How has your Fulbright experience contributed to your professional and personal development in Vietnam?

The Fulbright Program created a wonderful opportunity to change myself. This led me to studying for an MPA at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University in New York. This program prepared me for the challenges of leadership and management in the public sector and institutional context. It provided a rich context for the professional study of case analysis and management. We learned how to develop concrete skills and knowledge in planning, implementing, analytical thinking, making decisions, and budgeting so we can put into practice the solutions defined as best after careful analysis. All of this was not theoretical at all. It's practical and real life. I have applied what I have studied to enrich my professional and personal development.



Le Van Khoi visits the White House in Washington, DC as a Fulbright student in the U.S.



President of IIE, Dr. Allan Goodman and his wife, Collette Goodman, greet Le Van Khoi at a reception in Hanoi.

*Don't miss the alumni gatherings in 2007!
Email your up-to-date contact details to Ms. Do Thu Huong at dohx@state.gov.*

2006 Alumni Gathering: Hanoi



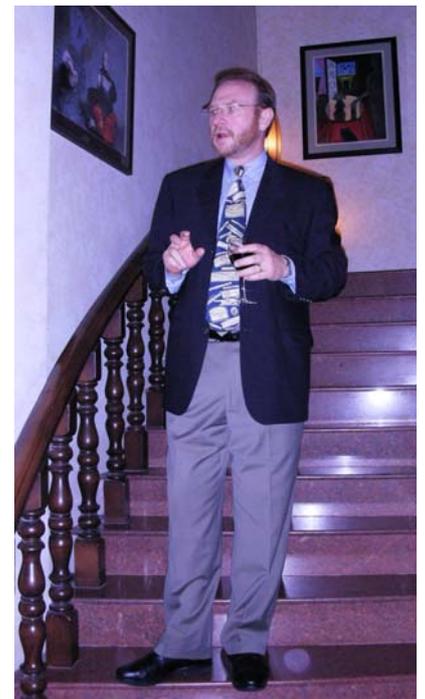
The annual Hanoi alumni gathering was held on May 19, 2006 at the Melia Hotel. The U.S. Embassy's Counselor for Public Affairs, Mr. Louis P. Lantner, gave opening remarks and awarded Fulbright certificates to recently returned grantees. Several alumni and an outgoing grantee also spoke about their Fulbright experience. Over 80 alumni attended the event.



2006 Alumni Gathering: Ho Chi Minh City



U.S. Consul General, Mr. Seth Winnick, hosted more than 50 Fulbright alumni and friends at his residence in Ho Chi Minh City on September 22, 2006. Mr. Winnick spoke about the contributions the Fulbright program makes to U.S.-Vietnam relations and recently-returned alumni received Fulbright certificates at the gathering.





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"The rapprochement of peoples is only possible when differences of culture and outlook are respected and appreciated rather than feared and condemned, when the common bond of human dignity is recognized as the essential bond for a peaceful world."

—Senator J. William Fulbright

How can you be part of the Fulbright community?

Contribute to our newsletter!

The Fulbright office is always looking for interesting stories and photos from our U.S. and Vietnamese Fulbrighters (including alumni!) If you have a story you'd like to share, please email Ms. Jessie Needham at needhamjc@state.gov. Our next newsletter will be published this summer.

Update your address!

The Fulbright Program in Vietnam, as well as the U.S. Embassy, sponsors many exciting events during the year. In order to ensure that you receive an invitation to these programs, make sure your email address and telephone contact details are updated with our office. Email your information to Ms. Do Thu Huong at dohx@state.gov.

