



*Fulbright Program in Vietnam
Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy
Rose Garden Tower, 170 Ngoc Khanh
Ba Dinh, Hanoi, Vietnam*

Chào Fulbright!

FULBRIGHT NEWSLETTER - FALL ISSUE, 2009

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
- English Teaching Assistantship Program (ETA)
- 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/lecturing in the U.S. Likewise, 20-25 Americans receive grants to lecture or pursue research in Vietnam.

From the Director

Dear friends:

Greetings from the Fulbright Office!

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable holiday season. This seems like the right time to reflect on the year that is ending and to think about the year to come. This past year has certainly been eventful for the Fulbright Program in Vietnam.

This fall, as the new academic year began, we said goodbye to the Vietnamese scholars and students who departed for the U.S. to pursue their research projects and master's study programs at different institutions. You can find a complete list of grantees with their fields of study and host institutions on pages 5 and 9.

We also welcomed their American counterparts to Vietnam. The American grantees will be here from one semester to one

academic year to lecture and do research at diverse host institutions in Vietnam.

One of the most remarkable events was the embarkation of the English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) on their one-month in-country orientation this past August. This is the second year that we have welcomed ETAs to Vietnam. The ETAs received intensive training in Vietnamese and English teaching methodology. Our ETAs are well-received and highly appreciated by the faculty members and students at their host institutions.

In this issue, we feature our current Fulbright grantees, both American and Vietnamese, who share their stories about life and study in Vietnam and in the U.S. We also recommend you to visit the web pages developed by our Fulbright alumni to access the



academic resources. We hope you will find the information useful.

From now till the end of the year 2009, the Fulbright Program in Vietnam will hold a lot of exciting events for Fulbright Vietnamese Alumni. Two big alumni gatherings will be hosted in HCMC and Hanoi on December 4 and 15. I encourage our Fulbright Alumni to participate in these events as this is an important step to setting up a strong Fulbright Alumni network.

Best regards,

Dr. Tran Xuan Thao

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Fulbright Highlights

Pre-departure Orientation for Vietnamese Scholars & Students

Pre-departure Orientations were held for Vietnamese scholars and students to help them prepare for their journey and experiences in the U.S. Among this year's grantees are senior lecturers, researchers, key administrators in higher education in Vietnam, and mid-career professionals from governmental agencies, universities, NGOs, and the private sector. They have been placed at top-rated American institutions where they will conduct their research projects or pursue master's study programs.

Fall Orientation for Newly Arrived U.S. Grantees

Fulbright Program organized the annual Fall Orientation for ten newly arrived American professors and researchers AY 2009-10. Embassy officers briefed the group on political, economic, security and health issues. Alumni from previous years shared their experiences on cultural adaptation and life and work in Vietnam.

In-country Orientation for English Teaching Assistants

The Fulbright Program organized a four-week Orientation for the ten new English Teaching Assistants AY 2009-2010. The Orientation started on August 3 at the Public Affairs Section with briefings from the Embassy officers and a reception by the Ambassador. During the four weeks, outside lecturers delivered lectures on Vietnamese history, geography, culture and language.

Training workshop on Public Opinion Research by Fulbright specialist

Fulbright Senior Specialist, Professor Michael Traugott, conducted a Training Workshop on Public Opinion Research at the Institute of Public Opinion Research (IPOR). More details on Page 6.

ELT Workshop and English Contest at Vinh University

The Fulbright Program cooperated with Vinh University to organize and sponsor an English Language Training (ELT) Workshop for 65 participants from Vinh, Hong Duc, Hai Phong and Hung Vuong Universities. An English contest was also organized for 20 contestants from participating universities to compete and demonstrate their English competency.

Welcome Ms. Vu Diu to the Fulbright Program!

Ms. Vu Thi Diu is the newest staff member of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. Diu started her current position at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi in February 2009. In her portfolio as a program assistant, Ms. Diu is in charge of non-traditional components of the Fulbright Program, including the English Teaching Assistantship Program, the Senior Specialist Program, the Scholar-in-Residence Program and the New Century Scholar Program.



After completing her B.A. in Teaching English at the Foreign Language at College of Foreign Languages, Vietnam National University-Hanoi in June 2002, Diu worked for TOEIC Vietnam. After one year, she moved to Language Link Vietnam where she worked for nearly six years. When asked why she chose Fulbright Vietnam, Diu said *"I desired a more professional and challenging environment where I could learn much more and be effective in my work. I found the working with the Fulbright Program to be an ideal position for me to achieve my dreams."*

Diu is very keen on education and values teamwork. People who have been working with her describe her as a "nice, thoughtful and responsible person". With her enthusiasm and ability, Diu will surely make significant contributions to the Fulbright community. Diu can be reached at (84-4) 3850-5100 or by email at vuvt@state.gov.

De-briefing Session

On October 15, the Fulbright Program in Vietnam co-organized an Academic Session on the theme **"Life and Work Experience of Vietnamese Fulbright Scholar Grantees in the U.S. - Opportunities and Challenges"** with Hoa Sen University

The main purpose of the session was to provide Vietnamese scholars with an opportunity to share and discuss their academic and cultural experiences under a Fulbright grant in the U.S. with their interested peers and colleagues, some of whom may be potential candidates for the Fulbright Program.

Following this event, a participant in the conference wrote: "It is invaluable for Vietnamese



A welcome remark by leader of Hoa Sen University

and U.S. colleagues to meet each other, and it is also very valuable for Vietnamese and American students and scholars to be acquainted. Further, while the specific results of the research are important and should be shared back, discussing the challenges and opportunities that researchers encounter while abroad is very helpful, and can help the Fulbright program anticipate some of the situations that researchers may face in the future."



Participants at the session

Scholar Pham Thi Ly shares her experience

English Teaching Assistants

The second batch of ten English Teaching Assistants arrived in Vietnam late July 2009. After a four-week orientation in Hanoi, the Fulbright Program sent them out to different universities and colleges throughout the country, where they are expected to support English teaching and learning for teachers and students, become a part of the college community, promote intercultural friendship and understanding, and inspire English learning movements.

Mary deBree

Host: Hai Phong Private University



Madeline Felix

Host: Hai Duong Teacher Training

Hayley Robb

Host: Hong Duc University



Sofia Rivkin-Haas

Host: Vinh University



Tam Duong

Host: Danang College of Education



Jennifer Ervin

Host: Phu Yen University

Mark Nelson

Host: Binh Duong University



Corinne Gibbon

Host: Nha Trang University



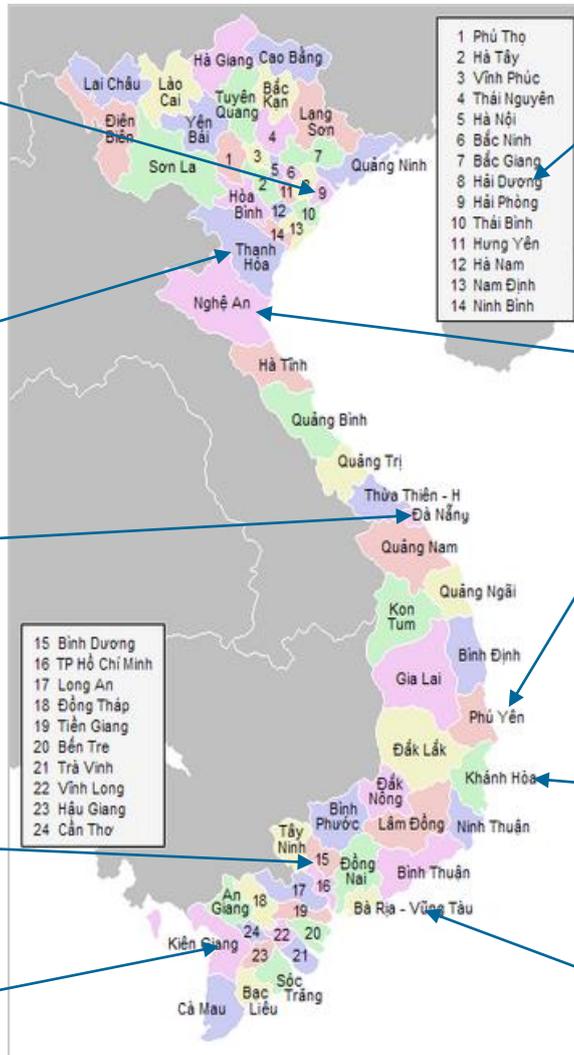
Emily Watkins

Host: Kien Giang Community College



Uyen Tran

Host: Ba Ria - Vung Tau College



Thank you Fulbright for sending us an ETA!

"We are much honored to be one of the host institutions to the English Teaching Assistants this year. We would like to thank the Fulbright Program in Vietnam for sending Mr. Mark Nelson to work as an English Teaching Assistant at Binh Duong University. For the past several weeks, Mr. Nelson has made a strong impression on students and faculty members of our university. Everyone here would like to have chance to practice their English as well as to introduce Vietnam and their lifestyles to him. Mr. Nelson played guitar, sang and played the harmonica on the occasion of Binh Duong University's Vietnamese Student Association's Anniversary, which was very impressive and made the university be proud of. In October, Mr. Nelson will be introducing on American's study & life to all new students AY 2009-2010.

Mr. Nelson is working as a teaching assistant for Public Speaking with focus on pronunciation, expression, listening and speaking skills. In addition, he is participating in some extracurricular activities organized as per students' studying schedule. He showed his diligence and fast learning of Vietnamese." (From Binh Duong University)

U.S. grantees to Vietnam



Dr. Ilene W. Crawford
Fulbright Senior Visiting U.S. scholar
Major: American Studies
Host: HCMC University of Education



Dr. Catherine Nye
Fulbright Senior Visiting U.S. scholar
Major: Social Work
Host: VNU - Hanoi, College of Education

Dr. Mark W. Schmeeckle
Fulbright Senior Visiting U.S. scholar

Major: Environmental Sciences
Host: Hanoi Water Resources University



Dr. Frances L. Hoffmann
Fulbright Senior Visiting U.S. scholar

Major: Sociology
Host: VNU- HCMC, Center for Educational Testing and Quality Assessment



Ms. Valerie D. Dao
Fulbright Visiting U.S. student
Major: Education
Host: HCMC University of Education

Born and raised in Orange County, Valerie attended the University of California, Irvine where she discovered her passion for educational development and her desire to engage in global citizenship.



Ms. Christine Nguyen
Fulbright Visiting U.S. student
Major: Public Health
Host: Pham Ngoc Thach Medical University in HCMC

*"When I was eight years old I encountered a handicapped girl wandering the streets in HCMC begging me for change, but all I could do was stare with sympathy. Now twenty two years old, I still look back at that handicapped girl, but this time I can work to give her the **change** she was begging for."*

Mr. Don Kim Pham
Fulbright Visiting U.S. student

Major: International Relations
Host: VNU- HCMC, College of Social Sciences & Humanities



Don Phan graduated from Yale University with a degree in political science and earned a master's degree in Southeast Asian Studies from the National University of Singapore as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

Mr. Matthew G. Schwarz
Fulbright Visiting U.S. student

Major: Political Science
Host: VNU - Hanoi, College of Economics



Matthew Schwarz researches the ways in which multinational corporations influence the Vietnamese legal system, paying specific attention to laws regarding business, investment, and international trade.



Mr. Oliver H. Meeker
Fulbright Visiting U.S. student
Major: Sociology
Host: VNU- HCMC, College of Social Sciences & Humanities

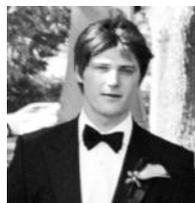
Coming to Vietnam as a Fulbright grantee I realized that re-searching my topic would lead me to many other opportunities in building cultural bridges between the U.S. and Vietnam.



Ms. Martha L. Lincoln
Fulbright Visiting U.S. student
Major: Anthropology
Host: Hanoi School of Public Health

Mr. Bretton Dimick
Fulbright Visiting U.S. student

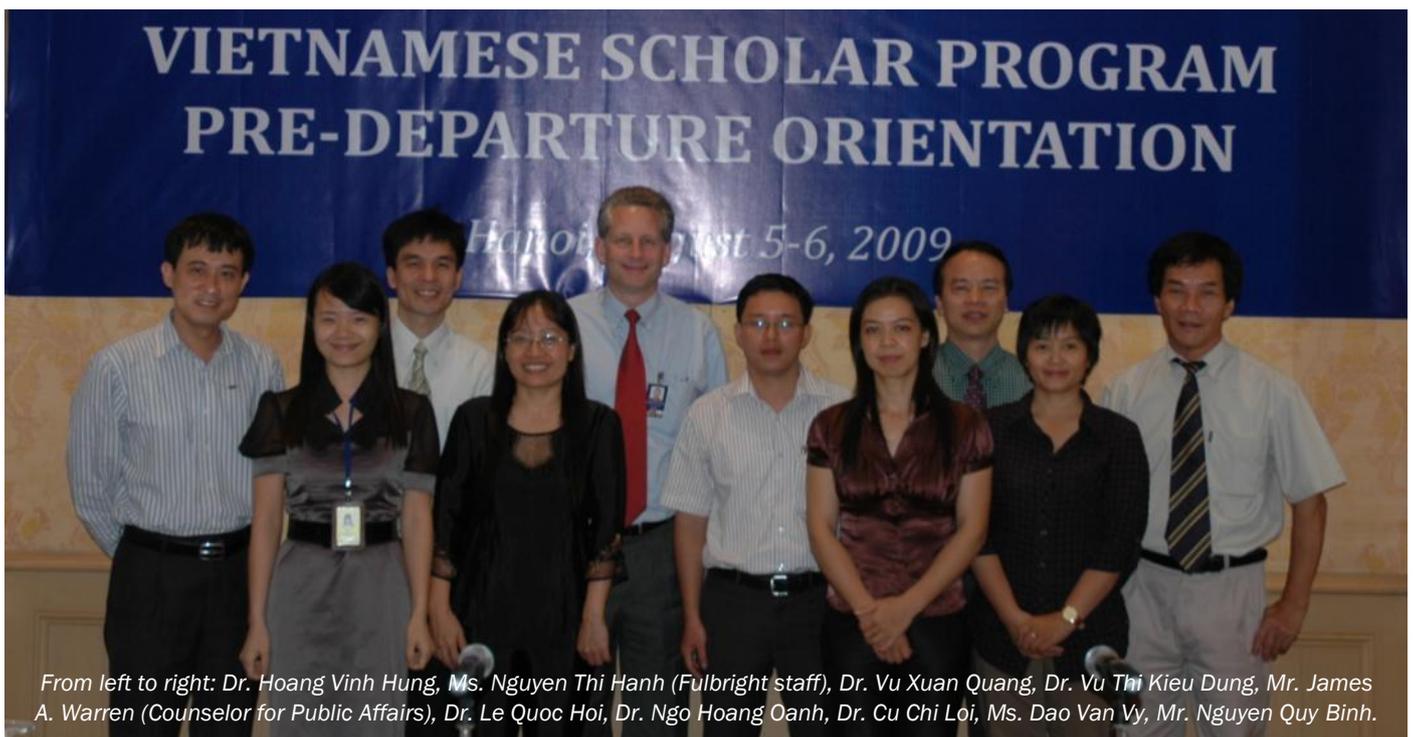
Major: Musicology
Host: Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies



Martha Lincoln is a Doctoral Candidate in Cultural Anthropology at CUNY Graduate Center. She has published on human rights, public health, public space, and violence in American Anthropologist, Daedalus, Dialectical Anthropology, Discourse: A Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture, and Socialism and Democracy, as well as the online journals Anthropology Now and Corporations and Health.

Vietnamese scholars to the U.S.

No	Name	Major discipline	Project Title	Current Position	Home Institution in VN	Host Institution in the U.S.
1	Dr. Hoang Vinh Hung	Urban Planning	Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment for Building Resilient Urban Communities in Vietnam's Cities	Lecturer	Hanoi Architecture University	University of California, Berkeley
2	Dr. Vu Xuan Quang	Economics	Promoting Social Entrepreneurship: Foundations, the U.S. Experience, and Recommendations to Vietnam	Director	MBA and International Program, Hanoi School of Business	Seattle University
3	Dr. Vu Thi Kieu Dung	Sociology	Interracial Marriage and Women's Health in the United States	Research fellow	Singapore National University	University of Washington
4	Dr. Le Quoc Hoi	Economics	The Linkages between Economic Growth, Poverty and Inequality in Vietnam	Deputy Chief Editor & Lecturer	Journal of Economics and Development, National Economics University	Johns Hopkins University
5	Dr. Ngo Hoang Oanh	Law	Typical Legal Education in the United States and Applicable Lesson for Vietnam Judicial and Education Reform	Head	School of Legal Consultancy, Judicial Academy	Harvard Law School
6	Dr. Cu Chi Loi	Economics	U.S.A. Market and the Expansion of Private Sector in Vietnam	Director	Institute of American Studies, Vietnam Institute of Social Sciences	University of California - San Diego
7	Ms. Dao Van Vy	Education	School-based Management as Means for Curriculum Reforms: Teacher Empowerment Perspectives	Researcher	Vietnam Institute for Education Science	Michigan State University
8	Mr. Nguyen Quy Binh	Law	Harmonization of Law for Economic Development in Vietnam & Impacts of the Vietnam-United States Bilateral Trade Agreement Toward This Process	Director	NBC Law Firm	Louisville University



From left to right: Dr. Hoang Vinh Hung, Ms. Nguyen Thi Hanh (Fulbright staff), Dr. Vu Xuan Quang, Dr. Vu Thi Kieu Dung, Mr. James A. Warren (Counselor for Public Affairs), Dr. Le Quoc Hoi, Dr. Ngo Hoang Oanh, Dr. Cu Chi Loi, Ms. Dao Van Vy, Mr. Nguyen Quy Binh.

Public Opinion Research

A training workshop by Fulbright Specialist, Prof. Michael W. Traugott

Through a Senior Specialist Fulbright grant from the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, Professor Michael Traugott arrived in Vietnam on August 8th to conduct a two-week training workshop on approaches in public opinion research.

The workshop was co-organized by the Fulbright Program and the Institute of Public Opinion Research of the VN Central Commission for Popularization and Education, an advising agency of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV). The objectives of the training workshop are to introduce the methodologies in gathering and processing data for research in public opinion.

With the goal of creating public policies that address the concerns and needs of the public, the CPV set up a network of collaborators across the country that work with the guidance and support of its Institute of Public Opinion Research. As the workshop is essential to its tasks, the Institute has decided to increase the number of participants from 20 to 50 and has planned to carry out small workshops across the country using these participants as key coordinators.



Dr. Michael Traugott at Opening Ceremony of IPOR's Training Workshop

Dr. Michael Traugott will be presenting a number of topics to senior researchers of the Institute of Public Opinion Research, including public opinion research experience on media and communication, on the election, and on the operation effects of state power agencies in U.S.

Dr. Michael Traugott was also invited to an online discussion with the largest online newspaper of Vietnam - Vietnamnet where he shared his thoughts on the relations between public opinion research and the policy-making process. This was quickly spread out in the news.

In the news

TuanVietnam.net
http://vietnamweek.net

SỰ KIỆN NÓNG | NHÂN VẬT TRONG NGÀY | THÔNG TIN ĐA CHIỀU | TƯ LIỆU & SUY NGẪM | THẾ GIỚI TRUYỀN THÔNG | NGHỆ XE

Bàn tròn: Dự luận xã hội và quyết định chính sách

Ngày đăng: 25/08/2009 10:59 GMT+7

(TuanVietNam) - Làm thế nào để hiểu hơn "lòng dân", để những mong muốn và nguyện vọng của người dân đi được vào mỗi chính sách của Đảng và Nhà nước? Đó là nội dung bàn tròn trực tuyến của VietNamNet chiều 25.08.2009.

Thăm dò dự luận để giữ liên hệ người dân – lãnh đạo

Ngày đăng: 23/08/2009 10:30 GMT+7

Thăm dò dự luận mới hiểu "lòng dân"

Tuan Việt Nam - 26/08/2009

... xã hội và quyết định chính sách GS. Traugott đến từ Trung tâm Báo chí, Chính trị và Chính sách công Joan Shorenstein, Đại học Harvard đang có mặt tại Việt Nam trong khuôn khổ Chương trình Fulbright của



Michael W. Traugott is Professor of Communication Studies and Political Science and Chair of the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Michigan. His research interests include politics and the mass media, campaigns and elections, and survey methodology.

He is currently extending previous research on voting-by-mail in Oregon, and he was a participant in an National Science Foundation conference in October sponsored by the Internet Policy Institute on electronic voting. The author of 9 books and more than 40 articles and book chapters, his most recent work focused on a revised edition of *The Voter's Guide to Election Polls* and an edited volume, *Election Polls, the News Media, and Democracy*, both with Paul Lavrakas. He just completed a term as President of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. He has consulted for a number of media and news organizations on their coverage of elections, including networks, newspapers, and the Voter News Service, the national exit poll operation. A political scientist by training, he received his B.A. from Princeton University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

HỌC BỔNG THẠC SĨ TOÀN PHẦN TẠI HOA KỲ NĂM HỌC 2011 - 2012



Đại sứ quán Hoa Kỳ tại Việt Nam trân trọng thông báo Chương trình Học bổng Fulbright lấy bằng Thạc sĩ tại Hoa Kỳ năm học 2011 - 2012. Được thành lập năm 1946 với nguồn tài trợ từ Quốc hội Mỹ, chương trình Fulbright hướng tới mục tiêu tăng cường hiểu biết lẫn nhau thông qua trao đổi văn hoá và giáo dục.

Người nhận học bổng sẽ được tài trợ toàn bộ học phí, trợ cấp hàng tháng, vé máy bay khứ hồi đến Mỹ và bảo hiểm y tế.

TIÊU CHÍ DỰ TUYỂN:

- Là công dân Việt Nam.
- Tốt nghiệp đại học
- Có ít nhất một năm kinh nghiệm làm việc tính từ ngày ghi trên bằng tốt nghiệp Đại học đến ngày 01/04/2010
- Có điểm TOEFL tối thiểu là 550 điểm (nội bộ) tương đương 79 điểm (iBT), hoặc 6.5 điểm IELTS còn giá trị sử dụng.

NGÀNH HỌC HỢP LỆ

Chương trình Fulbright khuyến khích hầu hết các ngành thuộc lĩnh vực khoa học xã hội, nhân văn và kinh tế bao gồm: Nghiên cứu về Hoa Kỳ, Văn học Mỹ, Giáo dục và Quản lý Giáo dục, Truyền thông, Luật, Quy hoạch Đô thị, Báo chí, Quan hệ quốc tế, Công tác xã hội, Kinh tế, Quản trị kinh doanh, Sức khỏe cộng đồng, Thư viện, Quản lý Hành chính công, Chính sách công, Giảng dạy tiếng Anh, Giới và Phát triển, Nghiên cứu phát triển, vv...

HỒ SƠ BAO GỒM:

- Đơn dự tuyển (theo mẫu trên trang web của Fulbright)
- Ba thư giới thiệu (theo mẫu trên trang web của Fulbright)
- Bản sao có công chứng các loại bằng cấp và bảng điểm (kèm bản dịch Tiếng Anh có công chứng)
- Bản sao chứng chỉ TOEFL/IELTS

LIÊN HỆ:

Để biết thêm chi tiết, xin mời xem trang web: <http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/fvst.html> hoặc liên hệ cô Nguyễn Thị Hạnh, Trợ lý Chương trình, ĐT: 04-3850-5089; Email: nguyenHT4@state.gov.



HẠN NỘP HỒ SƠ:

17:00 giờ, ngày 01/04/2010
(tính theo thời điểm hồ sơ đến văn phòng Fulbright)

ĐỊA CHỈ NỘP:

Chương trình Sinh viên Fulbright
Phòng Thông tin Văn hoá
Đại Sứ Quán Hoa Kỳ, Số 7 Láng Hạ
Hà Nội

Re-entry Seminar

Fulbright Program held a Re-entry Seminar in Quy Nhon for 12 recently returned grantees of the Vietnamese Student Program AY 2005, 2006, 2007.



This seminar was organized to provide the participants with a chance to reunite after studying in diverse locations throughout the U.S., and to share their memories and experiences.



Participants had one full day of activities in which they shared their inputs on life and academic experiences as Fulbright students in the U.S. The sessions on returning to Vietnam provided useful tips for the grantees to overcome their "reverse culture shock" and re-adapt to life in Vietnam. They were also presented with resources and opportunities to get involved in Fulbright alumni activities.



Grantees participated in a photo contest, and were also asked to give feedback on the administration of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, and the placement and support services of IIE. Feedback showed a consistent satisfaction among the grantees. Some helpful ideas for IIE to improve their placement and student services were also contributed.

At the office in Vietnam

Reflection story by Martha Lincolh, U.S. student

One of my colleagues in the Fulbright program is always teasing me for spending too much time "at the office" in Ha Noi. "This is Viet Nam!" he's always saying. Quite right, this is Viet Nam, and very true, there is a lot to be learned outside the university. But at the same time, I've found my university (Hanoi School of Public Health) to be a fascinating place in its own right.

Very generously, the administration assigned me to a department when I arrived, so I was not locked up in my own office, but rather, surrounded by talented colleagues in the fields of environmental and occupational health. While there is considerable overlap in our research interests, there are a number of interesting disciplinary differences between myself and my colleagues. I'm a medical anthropologist with training in qualitative methods, and they are more statistically inclined, with experience in implementing large data collection projects and broad interventions all over north and central Vietnam. Recent department projects have included following up on the health impacts of the winter 2008 floods in Ha Noi and implementing a safety curriculum in 99 primary schools in Da Nang. Exposure to their work has increased my accountability

to things like sample sizes and statistical significance – questions that anthropologists tend not to engage with enough rigor.

Sitting in the office with six others this September was a wonderful experience, exposing me constantly to new vocabulary and patterns of speech. I subconsciously absorbed a lot of phone etiquette, email conventions, and other forms of kinds of polite chatter that, while taken for granted in one's native language, can be hard to pick up as a student. In down time, some of my colleagues also showed me their Facebook profiles and pictures of loved ones, shared meals with me, and quizzed me politely about life back home.

Though in the US, "the office" is the "locus classicus of situation tragedy," as the liter-

ary critic Lauren Berlant puts it, a Vietnamese workplace – or, at least, this Vietnamese workplace – is a light-hearted, hospitable place. When I brought a pomelo to the office one Friday to share, everyone asked "Do you have something new?" According to a custom (previously unknown to me), people bring fruit to accompany good news that they are sharing – a new motorbike, a new boyfriend, a good result on a test.

My colleagues have also provided intensely generous support to me in helping me work through the process of receiving research permissions, designing intelligible questionnaires, and placing requests into the appropriate institutional channels – all tasks that would be daunting for a researcher working without institutional support. I will always remember the sense of curiosity, bemusement, and gratitude that I felt as my colleague Huyen looked through my schedule of interview questions, exclaiming in places "You can not ask people that, they will not be able to understand!"

While all this is fabulous, my favorite trait of university culture in Vietnam is the significance of music. My coworkers love to sing (one does a great cover of "Unchained Melody"), the first day of school featured performances by staff as well as students, and my English students surprised me at the end of the term by singing fifteen minutes' worth of classics in English and Vietnamese. I am certain that this never happens at any public health programs in the United States, and their spontaneity overjoyed me. Though in the months ahead I may be in "the office" less, and in "the field" more, my first month here was an utterly happy one.



Martha Lincolh (middle) and her colleagues in Ao dai

Vietnamese students to the U.S.

Twenty-eight grantees of the Fulbright Vietnamese Student Program AY2009-2010 have arrived safely in the U.S. to start the master's study programs. This is a special application year with the largest number of grantees selected over the past seventeen years. This year's group of grantees has a broad representation of fields of study, geographical areas and affiliations. All of them are currently in the United States, enrolling in their chosen programs. Grantees reported that they have been enjoying their stay and study while contributing to the Fulbright's mission of fostering mutual understanding. The Fulbright Program in Vietnam is proud to offer this valuable opportunity to the grantees.



List of 2009 grantees, in order of photo appearance, from left to right, top to bottom

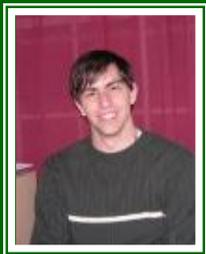
No.	Pre.	Family Name	Organization in Vietnam	City	Field of study	University in the U.S.
1	Ms.	Nguyen Le Minh Phuong	Unilever Vietnam	HCMC	MBA - Marketing	Williamette University
2	Ms.	Dang Thanh Son	Vietnam Audit Office	Hanoi	International Relations	Old Dominion University, VI
3	Mr.	Nguyen Phan Nam	Allens Arthur Robinson	Hanoi	Law	Duke University, Durham, NC
4	Ms.	Nguyen Thi Le Hoa	Oxfam Great Britain in Vietnam	Hanoi	Public Administration	Duke University, Durham, NC
5	Ms.	Nguyen Thi Thanh An	Unilever Vietnam	HCMC	Business	Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
6	Ms.	Vu Hoang Yen	Ministry of Planning and Investment	Hanoi	Agricultural Economics	University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
7	Ms.	Vu Cam Giang	Vietnam News newspaper	Hanoi	Journalism	New York University, New York, NY
8	Ms.	Vu Thi Lan	Le Quy Don Gifted High School	Khanh Hoa	TESOL	Southern Illinois University, IL
9	Ms.	Trinh Thi Minh Phuong	Hue College of Foreign Languages	Hue	TESOL	Columbia University, New York, NY
10	Mr.	Nguyen Thy Nhan	VietFund Management	HCMC	Business	American University, Washington, DC
11	Ms.	Nguyen To Uyen	WWF Vietnam	Hanoi	Environmental Sciences	University of Washington, DC
12	Mr.	Pham Ngoc Duy	FPT University	Hanoi	Education	Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
13	Ms.	Nguyen Tuyet Ngan	Ministry of Science and Technology	Hanoi	Public Administration	University of Maryland, College Park, MD
14	Mr.	Tran Ngoc Thinh	Vietnam Microfinance Working Group	Hung Yen	Public Administration	University of Missouri, Columbia, MO
15	Mr.	Vu Tien Hong	The Associated Press, Hanoi Bureau	Hanoi	Journalism	University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
16	Ms.	Dang Thi Phuong Thao	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam	Hanoi	International Relations	Texas A&M University
17	Mr.	Vo Van Dung	Pepsico	HCMC	MBA-Marketing	Rochester Institute of Technology, NY
18	Ms.	Nguyen Thuy Linh	Vietcombank	Hanoi	Banking	Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
19	Mr.	Nguyen Nguyen Ngoc	Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam	Hanoi	Social work	Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
20	Ms.	Vu Lan Huong	Vietnamnet Online Newspaper	Hanoi	Journalism	Northwestern University
21	Ms.	Vo Thanh Son Ca	Danang College of Foreign Languages	Danang	TESOL	Northern Arizona University
22	Ms.	Nguyen Le Huong	VNU-HN College of Foreign Languages	Hanoi	American Studies	New York University, New York, NY
23	Mr.	To Gia Quyen	The Nutrition Center	HCMC	Public Health	Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
24	Ms.	Hoang Thi Linh Giang	Hue College of Foreign Languages	Hue	TESOL	California State University, LA
25	Mr.	Dang Thanh Nhon	Bac Lieu Specialized High School	Bac Lieu	TESOL	Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN
26	Ms.	Nguyen Thi Thanh Van	Nielsen Vietnam	HCMC	MBA-Marketing	Rochester Institute of Technology, NY
27	Mr.	Ly Lam Duy	VietStar Securities Company	Hanoi	Accounting/Finance	Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
28	Ms.	Le Thi Tram Huong	Hanoi University of Technology	Hanoi	TESOL	Iowa State University, Ames, IA

Keith Buzby came to Vietnam in August 2008 as an English Teaching Assistant under the Fulbright grant. Seizing the opportunity of being affiliated at Dong Thap University in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam, Keith took great advantage of its remoteness to explore Vietnamese culture and people.

A letter from the heart

Keith Buzby

B.A. in History and Political Science from St. Mary's College of Maryland
Host: Dong Thap University



"I applied to the Fulbright program for a variety of reasons. I was attracted to the idea of helping foreigners better understand American culture and the English language. On a personal level, I applied to the Fulbright program to see another, very different part of the world. Vietnam has satisfied these requirements beautifully. After my time in Vietnam I plan on attending law school, and hope to eventually work as a district attorney.

In my free time, I enjoy good conversation, bicycling and soccer. I also love to read, especially history, politics, and science fiction."

May 15, 2009

My Friend,

If you are reading this letter, it means that you have been assigned to teach at Dong Thap University. You probably have never met me, but my name is Keith Buzby, and I was a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant from September 2008 to May 2009. I am writing this letter to you on my last day of teaching at Dong Thap University. In many ways, I am jealous of you. My time here is ending, and you have the promise of the future before you. I think that you'll have a lot to look forward to. My ten months in Dong Thap were some of the most amazing of my life.

They were not without challenge, of course. Maybe your initial reaction to your assignment was something like mine: holy smokes, what have I gotten myself into? While my fellow Teaching Assistants got assignments on the beaches of Nha Trang, in the historic citadel of Hue, and in the Northern metropolis of Hanoi, I got stuck out in the middle of the jungle, fifty kilometers from the Cambodian border. What gives?

Dong Thap's remoteness is its greatest challenge and its greatest advantage. Dong Thap is about as untouched by Western culture as a province can be in 21st Century Vietnam. In all likelihood, *you* will be the most Western influence this province has had in years. Now, in 2009, there is literally no Western food available in restaurants. The best you can do is French fries and Oreos. Westerners are such a rarity here that people will talk for days whenever one wanders into town. You will stick out like a grizzly at a polar bear convention. Expect to be the object of a lot of attention, with people staring and even pointing at you as you walk down the street.

That's the bad news. What you need to keep in mind, though, is that you will gain an incredible understanding of how the Vietnamese people live. You have an amazing opportunity to soak in Vietnamese culture like few visitors to this country ever can. I urge you to make the most of this opportunity. Go out for coffee with your students and professors as much as you can. This is how I made some of my best friendships here, ones that I hope to keep over the years. Taste all the local specialties (yes, even the rat - it's actually not that bad). Go out and explore the countryside. Some of my best memories from Vietnam were on the back of my bicycle, dodging chickens and cruising through rice paddies and jungle.

The other nice thing about working in Dong Thap is that you will be fulfilling a great need. In 2008, I was, to my knowledge, the first American to work full-time in Dong Thap since 1975 (during the war there was a US helicopter base where the university campus stands today). The only other English-speaker before me was a French-Canadian named David, and he was here nearly ten years ago. With such a deficit of native English-speakers, the students' language skills suffer greatly. To this day, after 10 months' service, I still have difficulty understanding most of my students. For Dong Thap University to succeed, at least in terms of language training, it needs a steady stream of native speakers to teach. I hope that I am the first of such a stream, and that your arrival comes only a few years after my departure (I really hope you're not thinking of how your grandparents probably graduated from high school in 2009). Although it is difficult to measure progress on a day by day basis, I think that you'll gain a satisfaction for teaching in an area so underserved. I know I did.

There is so much to say, and I could probably write a book on my experiences here. Rather than do that, though, I want to give you the same opportunity to explore that I had. I am, however, happy to talk to you and offer any advice that I can. You can reach me at keith.buzby@gmail.com. I'm also on Facebook, and kept a blog at www.buzzinaroundvietnam.blogspot.com. It should still be up when you get this letter; I have no intentions of taking it down. Even if you have everything under control, I would still very much like to hear from you to see how your experience goes and also to hear how much Dong Thap has changed since I was there.

Good luck, and I hope your time in Dong Thap is at least as fantastic as mine was.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Buzby

Keith R. Buzby
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant
Dong Thap University
Cao Lanh, Vietnam

www.fulbright.tk

Fullbright Weblog & Pay it forward Spirit

"I want to build a Vietnamese Fulbright Community, where people can be connected to learn, to share and to be successful."

As a Fulbright grantee (2009 -2010) who had to struggle with little information about the Fulbright Program during his application process, Tran Ngoc Thinh was determined to do something for the next Fulbright applicants before leaving Vietnam for his two-year master's program in Public Administration at the University of Missouri. He wanted to bridge potential applicants with past Fulbright grantees and inform them of the unique chance of becoming a Fulbrighter. He wanted many others people, especially those who are not living in Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City to have more online access to all information and experiences that they need to be successful.

With that in mind, in June 2008, Thinh developed a weblog with a short and easy-to-remember domain www.fulbright.tk. He started the weblog by collecting information about the scholarship and experiences from previous applicants, articles from foreign sources which discuss in detail about the scholarship's history, story



Tran Ngoc Thinh at the University of Missouri

and clarification. He spent his free time writing articles on his own experiences, and encouraged his Fulbright peers to do the same. Not only a portal for information, this interactive blog platform also offers a chance to interact with current Fulbrighters and program alumni by asking questions or commenting on articles.

It was difficult to let the public know about this weblog at first. Thinh attended as many workshops, meetings, and over-sea study forums as possible so he could pro-

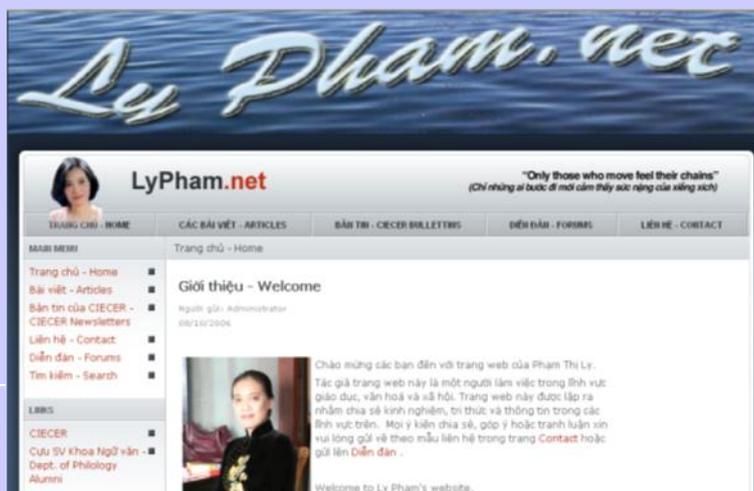
mote the weblog as an information gateway for anyone who wants to know more about the Fulbright Program. Questions and comments from the weblog visitors are responded in a prompt manner with assistance from other Fulbright fellows who share the same goal with Thinh.

Just a months after its inception, the Fulbright Weblog gained public attention by word of mouth and public posts on online forums.. The information on the weblog was rated "informative" and "motivating" by readers including high school students, university students, officers, and current Fulbright candidates. Some candidates have promised to write articles for the weblog when they become Fulbrighters!

When asked why he developed this weblog, Thinh said *"I strongly believe that "pay it forward" will become a meaningful spirit in the Vietnamese Fulbright community. In this way, people share their success and help other people to be more successful."*

If you wish to join the "pay it forward" spirit and contribute your inputs to the weblog, please contact Thinh at tranngocthinh@gmail.com.

www.LyPham.net



Homepage of the website www.LyPham.net

Dr. Ly Pham is currently the Director of the Centre for International Education Culture Exchange and Research at Ho Chi Minh City University of Education. She has been working in the fields of education, culture and social studies for years.

In 2008, Dr. Ly Pham won a Fulbright Visiting Scholar grant to conduct a compelling research project on "Introducing the Best International Educational Administration Practices Into Vietnamese Higher Education" at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, USA.

Dr. Ly Pham has recently developed a personal website to share her experience and knowledge in her fields of expertise. The website has a large collection of her translated articles and research papers on education, social questions, and cultural issues. It also presents articles by other authors in the field.

The website has been well received by readers, and we believe that interested people from the Fulbright community will benefit from it, too.



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Http://vietnam.usembassy.gov/fulbright.html

“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

Upcoming events...

December 4, 2009

Alumni Gathering

Ho Chi Minh City

R.S.V.P: Ms. Ngoc Ha, Tel: 04-3850-5100 (#6005)

Email: dohntn@state.gov

December 22, 2009 - January 15, 2010

Senior Specialist Project at Faculty of Special Education, Hanoi University of Education

Hanoi

December 10-11, 2009

ETA Mid-year Enrichment Seminar

Nha Trang

December 22-24, 2009

Enrichment Seminar for U.S. grantees

Venue: TBD

December 15, 2009

Alumni Gathering

Hanoi

R.S.V.P: Ms. Ngoc Ha, Tel: 04-3850-5100 (#6005)

Email: dohntn@state.gov

December 2009 - March 2010

Information Sessions - Fulbright Vietnamese Student Program

Major cities/provinces