

## Message from the Director

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Dear Friends,

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer!

It was wonderful to see many of you who attended the picnic at Suoi Tien Park. I hope we will have more opportunities to meet in such a relaxing environment soon.

The Fulbright Program office has been busy this summer especially with the beginning of the application process for the Vietnamese Scholar Program (VSP) for academic year 2001-02 which began July 3rd. As previous Fulbright scholars and students, many of you are familiar with the Fulbright program. I would like to ask for your assistance again in encouraging interested and qualified individuals to apply. All of you should have received a packet in the mail that included the grant announcement as well as the application; if you didn't, please contact my office. Please forward this packet of information to anyone who you think can contribute to, and benefit from, the Fulbright Program.

At the same time that we started the application process for the Vietnamese Scholar program, we concluded the preliminary process for the Vietnamese Student Program. We received a high number of applications this year thanks in great part to your effort. The candidate pool was quite strong and came from a variety of backgrounds.

As was announced in the last newsletter, Country Public Affairs Officer Tracy Thiele left for a new posting in Washington, D.C. In her stead, David Monk is now the Country Public Affairs Officer; I will be working with him to direct the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. I hope you will give him a warm welcome at our next function.

Best wishes,



Tran Xuan Thao, Ph.D.  
 Director  
 Fulbright Program in Vietnam

## FULBRIGHTER NEWS:

### **Fun in the sun - Fulbright families in Hanoi join in picnic at Suoi Tien Park**

Families of returned Fulbrighters gathered for a picnic organized by the Fulbright Program office on Saturday, July 1, at Suoi Tien Park. About 50 Fulbrighters and their families escaped the Hanoi heat and enjoyed a day of swimming, picnicking, and relaxation at the mountain retreat.

Loaded onto two buses, the group set off with great enthusiasm and anticipation on a beautiful Saturday morning for the two-hour drive to the park. Sunny weather and an abundance of activities—as well as food—made for a fun and enjoyable picnic. After eating lunch upon arrival, Fulbrighters and their families could be seen relaxing under the shade of trees; some went swimming in the waterfalls; others went to the water park. Many Fulbrighters enjoyed the event and remarked that there should be more of these "family fun" activities in the future.

### **Fulbrighters in HCMC organize own picnic**

Not to be outdone by their northern counterparts, Fulbrighters in Ho Chi Minh City organized their own picnic with little assistance from the Fulbright Program office in Hanoi. A group of HCMC Fulbrighters heard news of the Hanoi picnic and decided that it would be fun to organize their own picnic. The Fulbright Program office gladly offered assistance to the organizers

By all accounts, this first ever Fulbrighter-organized event was a smashing success. On Saturday, July 22, more than 30 Fulbrighters and their families gathered at the Binh Quoi Park to play, eat, and relax with each other. The venue offered many activities, such as fishing, boating and picnicking, which kept many there until 8 pm; one participant observed that "it was the relaxing atmosphere and setting which kept everybody there---people could chat and spend a day away from work, away from the noise and crowd of the city."

"I would encourage any Fulbrighter who has a good idea for a fun event and would like to organize it to work with the Fulbright Program office. Organizing the event was surprisingly easy and not very time-consuming at all because of the wonderful assistance we received from the Fulbright Program office. It was a wonderful experience," said an organizer of the picnic.

If you would like to organize a Fulbright event, please contact Dr. Tran Xuan Thao for more information.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>
Fulbright Orientation for US Scholars and Students	New US Fulbright Students and Scholars	Hanoi	Late August 2000
Fitness Night	Fulbright Scholars	Hanoi	Early August 2000

**Evaluation of US Fulbright Scholar Program**

Every year, the Fulbright Program in Vietnam organizes an evaluation of the US Fulbright Scholar Program in Vietnam with representatives of Vietnamese institutions that have hosted a US Fulbright Scholar. The evaluation session is organized to allow host institutions to analyze and assess the contribution that US Fulbright Scholars have made to their institutions and find ways to maximize the benefit of the Scholar Program for both institution and scholar. For the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, the evaluation session is vital to fulfilling the Fulbright mission of increasing mutual understanding between countries through educational exchange.

All Fulbrighters who are currently working at an educational or research institution are encouraged to contact the Fulbright Program office to find out more about how the US Fulbright Scholar Program have can benefit their institutions. If your institution is currently hosting a foreign scholar and you would like to share your experience and thoughts, please contact Dr. Tran Xuan Thao.

**USEFUL INFORMATION:**

**HANOI:**

U.S. Embassy  
 7 Lang Ha  
 Hanoi, Vietnam  
 Tel: (04) 843-1500  
 Fax: (04) 843-1510

Public Affairs Section - Hanoi  
 6 Ngoc Khanh  
 Hanoi, Vietnam  
 Tel: (04) 831-4580  
 Fax: (04) 831-4601  
 Email: fulbrightvn@fpt.vn

**HO CHI MINH CITY:**

U.S. Consulate  
 4 Le Duan, District 1  
 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
 Tel: (08) 822-9433  
 Fax: (08) 822-9434

Public Affairs Section - HCMC  
 9/F, Saigon Centre  
 65 Le Loi, District 1  
 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
 Tel: (08) 821-6400  
 Fax: (08) 821-6405

**Fulbright Program Website:**

<http://www.usembassy.state.gov/vietnam/www/fhp.html>

FULBRIGHT FACTS:

Have you ever wondered how many of your Fulbright peers are out there? Do you know where they are now? Below are the numbers on the Fulbright Program that may be of interest to you.

Number of Vietnamese Fulbright Students since 1992: 191

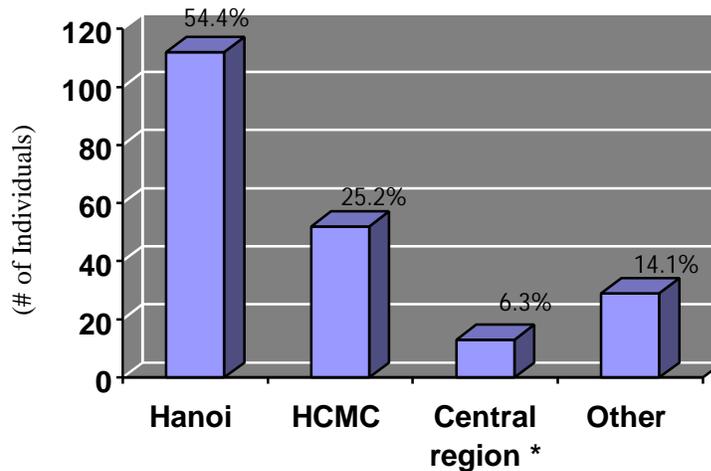
Number of Vietnamese Fulbright Scholars since 1998: 22

Acceptance rate (number accepted/number applied) for last year's Vietnam Fulbright Student Program: 1.5 %\*

Acceptance rate (number accepted/number applied) for last year's Vietnam Fulbright Scholar Program: 30 %\*

\* The Vietnam Fulbright Scholar and Student programs are very competitive. The acceptance rate of the Scholar Program is significantly higher than the Fulbright Student Program because the application criteria for Scholars is more stringent

Vietnamese Fulbrighters: Where They Are Now



\* from Nha Trang to Vinh

FROM YOU:

Have you moved recently? Please write your new contact details here and fax or email to PAS - Hanoi: (04) 831-4601 or fulbrightvn@fpt.vn.

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

New telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## FULBRIGHT UPDATES:

### **Student application process continues...**

The application period for Preliminary Data Forms for the 2001 Fulbright Fellowship competition concluded on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This year English language ability is being assessed early in the process to ensure that candidates have the language skills necessary to complete graduate study in the US. Candidates are required to have a TOEFL score of at least 500 in order to be asked to complete the formal Fulbright application. We are very pleased with the TOEFL results thus far; 62% of the candidates who have taken the TOEFL have scores over 500.

Throughout June and July, Diane Young, Fulbright Student Program Officer, has been presenting Information Sessions throughout Vietnam. In addition to presentations in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, she has traveled to Can Tho and Hue. The Information Sessions have been well attended and candidates have asked good questions that demonstrate their impressive academic and professional backgrounds. We are certain that a very strong group of students will depart Vietnam during the summer, 2001, for their Fulbright study in the US.

The formal Fulbright application is due in the Fulbright Office in Hanoi no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>. Faxed or email copies of the application are not acceptable. In fact, we are encouraging candidates to use EMS or another guaranteed mail service. If you are advising students and they have questions that you are not able to answer, please encourage them to call or email the Fulbright Office. Either Dr. Thao or Diane Young will be happy to speak to them.

### **New U.S. Fulbright scholars and students to arrive in late August**

The end of every August marks the beginning of a new Vietnam Fulbright experience for groups of US Fulbright Scholars and Students. This August, more than 20 American scholars and students will begin their Fulbright journey in Vietnam. For many of them, this will not be their first trip to Vietnam. For others, however, Vietnam will be a new and foreign place. For this reason, the Fulbright Program organizes an orientation session to provide the American scholars and students with useful information that will help them live, work, and conduct their research in Vietnam. They all welcome the opportunity to interact and get to know Vietnam, its people and culture better. Returned Fulbrighters are uniquely positioned to assist their American counterparts to adapt to life in Vietnam because of their cross-cultural experience. If you are interested in participating in the orientation session or meeting up with US Fulbright scholars and students, please contact the Fulbright Program office.

**FULBRIGHT FEATURE:****Tran Qui-Phiet conducts American Literature seminar in Dalat**

*Dr. Tran Qui Phiet, a senior US Fulbright Scholar for academic year 1999-2000, was recently funded by the Fulbright Program in Vietnam to lecture on American literature at the University of Dalat. The following is a report from Dr. Phiet:*

“At the invitation of Dr. Nguyen Huu Duc, Rector of the University of Dalat, I traveled to Dalat to conduct a seminar on American Literature for its English faculty on June 12-14, 2000. The seminar was co-sponsored by the English Department and the Fulbright Program in Vietnam.

Meetings were held on the university’s beautiful campus with 17 scholars participating. We adhered to a tight schedule, trying to cover as many subjects as we could, ranging from techniques on teaching American literature to Vietnamese students to evaluating student’s critical essays to writing about literature. Seminar members’ active participation demonstrated not only their professional knowledge of literature and critical intelligence but also, more importantly, their enthusiasm about American literature and culture. Some instructors even expressed their desire to “sign up” for teaching American literature in the very near future. What I found moving was that during my visit, I was taken to be a confidante with whom they honestly shared their concerns and aspirations. They told me they lack many things: books for their library, teachers of literature, scholarships for advanced study in the States, professional assistance in designing course syllabi, teaching tips, etc.

As a Fulbright scholar who worked closely with them for three days, I found their requests legitimate and urgent. As the number of Fulbright grants has increased significantly this year, we should encourage these young scholars to apply for scholarships to pursue their graduate study in the United States. The next project---setting up a resource center for the English faculty and students---seems easier. At the time of this writing, I learned that the U.S. Embassy- Public Affairs Section, Ho Chi Minh City, through Dr. Tran Xuan Thao, has donated four boxes of books to the University of Dalat library. I myself have presented to the English Department some textbooks and teaching materials. Another feasible strategy for developing the university’s teacher training program is inviting U.S. scholars to organize on-campus seminars and workshops on American Studies and American Literature. Given the success of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, enlisting U.S. experts for the project is an excellent idea.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to these individuals: Dr. Tran Xuan Thao, Vietnam Fulbright Program Director, for initiating the idea of involving Fulbright scholars; Rector Duc, for inviting me to his campus for the seminar; Dr. Mai Xuan Long, Director of International Relations, for his generous hospitality and care; Ms. Le Thi Thiep and Ms. Ngo Thi Thanh Huong, Dean and Associate Dean of Foreign Languages Department, for adopting me as a member of their English Department family during my visit. Special thanks are due to Ms. Tran Thu Huyen of the International Relations Office whose job it was to make sure that I enjoyed every minute of my visit, for helping me explore the city and for attending to me from the time of my arrival. The members of the 2000 American Literature Seminar also deserve my gratefulness for this marvelous seminar on account of their intelligence, thoughtfulness and dedication. All this plus the fact that Dalat is my birthplace has made my short stay in this charming city one of the fondest experiences I have ever had.”