

*“Educational exchange can turn nations into people, contributing as no other form of communication can to the humanizing of international relations.”*  
-- J. William Fulbright

## Inside this issue

Message from the Ambassador	1
Message from the Program Director	2
25th anniversary: Milestone recap & tentative activities	3
Highlights	4-5
Current U.S. Scholars in Vietnam	6-7
“More alike than different”	8
“One thousand and one nights in America”	9
Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship Program	10

## From Ambassador Ted Osius

Dear Fulbrighters and Fulbright friends,

Welcome to the first issue of the Chào Fulbright Newsletter 2017! This year, we celebrate a true milestone in the U.S.-Vietnam relationship: the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fulbright program.

It’s an honor to celebrate a program that predates the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between our countries. In 1992, we began our Vietnamese Student Program, sending the country’s brightest to the United States for graduate programs in Political Science, Business, Communications, Education, and other fields across the entire range of humanities.

But that was just the beginning. Twenty five years later, Fulbright Vietnam now includes seventeen exchange programs for Americans and Vietnamese to study, research, teach, and promote mutual understanding in both coun-

tries. This year, we celebrate not only Fulbright’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but the more than 1,200 students, scholars, and leaders who have participated to date. From your experiences, you know firsthand the impact of the Fulbright program – on your own life, on those whom you met during your program, and on those you’ve met and worked with upon returning to Vietnam. Fulbright alumni have played a significant role in strengthening our bilateral relationship in a meaningful and profound way.

I encourage you to continue to share your experience with those around you and to stay connected with the U.S. Mission in Vietnam. We can serve as a resource for you to continue to do good things in your communities. Of course, with a new year comes a new crop of Fulbrighters, and I hope you’re also talking to your colleagues about applying for Fulbright grants them-



selves. There is no better advertisement for the Fulbright program than your own success.

We’ve got a full slate of activities planned for this year’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Please stay tuned for updates from Fulbright, and contribute your ideas to make the celebration a huge success. I look forward to engaging with you throughout the year as we celebrate this historic anniversary.

Sincerely yours,

Ambassador Ted Osius

## 25th Anniversary



2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. Let’s look at some quick facts:

- 1992: Program established in Vietnam with one single component
- 2017: Includes 17 components
- Nearly 700 Vietnamese & more than 500 American grantees
- Fulbrighters’ presence in over 50 major cities/provinces throughout Vietnam



## From Program Director

Dear Fulbrighters and Fulbright friends,

Greetings from the Fulbright team in Vietnam!

It is our profound pleasure to announce the re-launching of *Chào Fulbright Newsletter*, which highlights the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. This year we celebrate our silver jubilee.

Our program has grown since its inception over 25 years ago from one to seventeen programs. Over 700 Vietnamese scholars and young professionals have travelled to the United States for research, study, and assistance in teaching in higher education. At the same time, more than 400 American scholars, students, and young professionals have participated in the Fulbright Program in Vietnam as university lecturers, researchers, specialists, and English teachers at gifted high schools, colleges and universities across the country.

The Fulbright program is one of the oldest and most prestigious U.S. Government scholarship programs, which continues to promote the development of Vietnam through various educational exchange programs. Fulbrighters play an active role in Vietnam’s intellectual, business, and civic communities in developing and sustaining academic and educational programs at education institutions and contributing to economic development throughout the country.

Beginning now until the end of the year 2017, the Fulbright Program in Vietnam plans to hold a number of events to celebrate our anniversary. We hope you’ll join us and be part of these celebrations. We’ve begun highlighting some of your stories on the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate Facebook pages, and we encourage you to send us more so we can share with friends and prospective Fulbrighters.



We really hope that you’ll not only enjoy reading the newsletter, but also provide feedback and suggestions.

Happy Anniversary!

Vu Quynh Nga, Fulbright Director

On behalf of the Fulbright Program Vietnam

## Fulbright Staff & Portfolios

**Do Thu Huong**  
*Program Assistant*



✉ dohx@state.gov  
☎ 04-3850-5000 (#6225)

- U.S. Scholar Program
- ASEAN Studies Research for U.S. Scholars
- Global Scholar
- Global-Flex Scholar
- U.S. Student Program
- Fulbright-National Geographic
- Vietnamese Visiting Scholar
- U.S. – ASEAN Visiting Scholar

**Vu Thi Diu**  
*Program Assistant*



✉ vudt@state.gov  
☎ 04-3850-5000 (#6033)

- English Teaching Assistantship Program
- Senior Specialist Program
- Vietnamese Distinguished Teaching Awards
- Distinguished Teaching Awards Short-term

**Nguyen Thi Hanh**  
*Program Assistant*



✉ nguyent4@state.gov  
☎ 04-3850-5000 (#5089)

- Vietnamese Student Program
- Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship Program
- U.S. Distinguished Teaching Awards

**Hoang Thu Ha**  
*Admin Assistant*



✉ hoangth@state.gov  
☎ 04-3850-5000 (#6005)

- A graduate from Hanoi University, Ha joined Fulbright team in 2014 and is the newest team member. Her valuable support in budget, grant, logistics, etc. has facilitated the work for the whole team. Ha enjoys movies and travelling solo.



## 25 years: Milestones recap

1990s



Early 2000s



2007



15th anniversary

2008



10th anniversary  
VN Scholar Program

2012



20th anniversary



## 25th Anniversary Activities

2017 will be a busy year with many activities and programs we will do to commemorate the 25th anniversary. Please share with us your ideas and suggestions to make the celebrative year a huge success. Below are the tentative activities for the calendar year.

- March: Inter-Province English Conference
- March - December : Feature Fulbrighters' stories on Embassy's and Consulates' Facebook page
- June: Open session on career orientation for high school students in Hanoi
- July: Talk show on "Tips for Fulbright Interview", co-hosted by Fulbright alumni
- August: New academic year debut program for arriving U.S. scholars & students and ETAs
- September - October: Open Forum & exchange session among Fulbright newly returned grantees at a local school in Vietnam
- December: Fulbright Education Conference and Reception

## Highlights

### Spring Orientation for U.S. Scholars and Students

January 2017, Fulbright Orientation for arriving U.S. scholars and students took place in HCMC. The Orientation aimed to help grantees best prepare for and benefit from their stay and work in Vietnam. Consul General Mary Tarnowka gave opening remarks and briefed the grantees on the current U.S. – Vietnam Relations. Briefings on different issues were provided by U.S. Consulate officers. An excursion tour to Mekong Delta wrapped up the Orientation and helped them better understand Vietnamese culture and people.



### Vietnamese Student Program: applications open for 2018 intake

January 1, 2017, the flagship Fulbright VN Student Program launched the new application. Successful candidates will pursue master's programs in the social fields of study in the U.S. in the academic year 2018. Application are due April 15, 2017.



*Fulbright info session at Khanh Hoa University*

### Inter-Province English Conference

March 4-5, 2017, six Fulbright ETAs co-organized an inter-province English conference for 100 students and teachers of Hải Dương, Yên Bái, Nam Định, Hòa Bình, Tuyên Quang and Thanh Hóa provinces. Funded by Fulbright, the Conference was hosted at Le Hong Phong Gifted High School in Nam Định to help students and teachers to improve their English and teaching skills. Participating for two days in a variety of activities including ice breakers, Q&A on America, group workshops and story performances, students got the chance to practice English in real-life settings while making new friends



and having fun. The teacher workshop led by two English Language Fellows provided the teachers with new pedagogical skills and creative methodologies to use in the classroom. Overall, the conference's success highlighted the Fulbright Program in Vietnam's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### Mid-year Evaluation Session with ETA Hosts



On January 13, 2017, Fulbright Program organized a mid-year evaluation session for 17 ETA host institutions from across Vietnam in HCMC. Mr. David Turnbull, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Consulate HCMC joined the session. Host representatives and the Fulbright Program discussed all aspects pertaining to an ETA's term: administration, visas,

teaching schedule & syllabus, living condition, cultural adaptation and exchange, etc. The meeting was an opportunity for institution hosts as well as the U.S. Mission to have a thorough look at the program in order to improve its efficiency and impact in the long term.



## Nguyen Tan Vu offers free yoga class to Savannah



### Free yoga class offered to Savannah families

A local SCAD student is offering a free yoga class to families in Savannah. Vu Nguyen kicked off the program in Yamacraw Village this weekend and hopes to expand it to other neighborhoods moving forward.

WJCL.COM

Nguyen Tan Vu is working on his master's program in film making at Savannah Center of Arts and Design as a Fulbright student. Vu wanted to make yoga free to all families in Savannah who cannot afford the

cost. Vu believes people in need should benefit from his class at no cost, so he first kicked off the program in communities where it is most needed. Vu has also made a small documentary about this

yoga campaign and has received really positive feedback from the professors.

Before Fulbright, Vu was a freelance film maker and worked as a lecturer at Hoa Sen University. 10 years of working in film-related industry including market research, marketing and advertising has given Vu great insights into his field. He plans to convey social issues in Vietnam while embracing the Vietnamese culture and spirit through his films. He also wants to build a new film school upon his return to Vietnam.



*Vu is directing an ads shooting*



*Vu at Yosemite National Park*

## The Sunshine State – By Amanda Fleming



March 8<sup>th</sup>, Fulbright ETA Amanda Fleming gave a presentation about her home state of Florida at the American Center. The audience was divided into two teams in order to answer trivia questions about Florida throughout the presentation. The participants learned about Florida's unique history, ecosystem, climate,

and biodiversity. They were also introduced to the state's sports teams, universities, and tourist attractions. The winning team received magnets from Orlando City Soccer, a soccer team in Orlando, Florida. Amanda enjoyed the opportunity to talk about her state's unique culture.

## Fulbright Specialist Program at Hue Monuments Conservation Center (HMCC)

On March 1-30, 2017, Fulbright Specialist, Dr. Kim Hi Jin worked at Hue Monuments Conservation Centre (HMCC) on Music and Performing Arts. Through her visit, Dr. Kim Hi Jin supported the host institution via conducting seminars on how elements of Asian music and aesthetics have influenced American Contemporary music to faculty members, professional artists, graduate and undergraduate students and having dialogues with Vietnamese musicians regarding Asian music appreciation and understanding in the USA within the music world and to the general public and new direction of Vietnamese music within a global context. The impact on HMCC will be broad, expansive and significant in their local and regional relationship with artists by providing them with a rare opportunity to learn, investigate and interact with the Fulbright specialist.



## Current U.S. Scholars in Vietnam

**Diana Dudzik, PhD**, is a 2016-17 Fulbright Scholar at the University of Languages and International Studies/ Vietnam National University in Hanoi. She has lived and worked in Vietnam for more than 8 years over a twenty year period, through the iNGO,



Resource Exchange International, and as a Senior English Language Fellow and most recently as a Fulbright Scholar. Diana was the lead author of Vietnam's English Teacher Competencies Framework (ETCF), the country's first subject-specific teacher standards. As a Fulbright Scholar, Diana has led team of teacher educators from four universities to develop high quality, accessible teacher development to help address the needs of the nation's 80,000 public school English teachers. Through her *Blended English Teacher Development Project*, a graduated, ETCF-based curriculum and four pilot courses have been produced with both online and face-to-face modules. The highlight of Diana's work in Vietnam is her collaboration with Vietnamese colleagues.

**Caroline Cao**

“As I left Viet Nam over 35 years ago, a small child amongst the mass exodus of the Boat People, I have few memories of my childhood in Saigon. This year, I return to my birth country as a US Fulbright Scholar to share my knowledge and expertise in the field of Human Factors Engineering in Medical Devices, and Entrepreneurship. At the Interna-



tional University in HCMC, the faculty, staff and students in the Department of Biomedical Engineering welcome me with open arms, not to mention all kinds of exotic delicacies and local cuisine. Despite

the language barrier and differences in culture, I am bonding with my colleagues through the universal language of food, and a shared vision for scientific discovery and technology innovation. We are developing joint academic and research programs to ensure continuing collaboration in the future, long after I have returned to Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.”

**Lisa L. Stenmark** teaches in Humanities and Comparative Religious Studies at San Jose State University, earning her MDiv/MA from the Graduate Theological Union and a PhD from Vanderbilt University. Her scholarly interests include religion and popular culture and the relationship between religion, science and politics. She is the author of *Religion, Science and Democracy: A Disputational Friendship*, on the conflicts between scientific and religious authority in public life, and is currently editing a volume (with Whitney Bauman) on *Religion, Science and Queer Theory*. While in Viet Nam she is teaching a class on Globalization with the Faculty of International Relations at USSH in HCMC, and working with faculty at the National Universities in Hanoi and HCMC to collect papers for an edited volume on Vietnamese perspectives on Western Science and Vietnamese Traditions. She lives across from the canal and loves watching it change day by day, and hour by hour.



**Dr. Michael Malison** is an Adjunct Professor of Global Health at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, Georgia. His Fulbright project at the Hanoi University of Public Health (HUPH) aims to publish a scientific research article on the importance of management and leadership training in preparing the public health workforce for new roles and responsibilities in a newly decentralized health system.



Dr. Malison has worked with Vietnam for the past 15 years introducing pro-active teaching methods and curricula that provide evidence-based decision making skills to public health leaders and managers. The HUPH has adopted and integrated these techniques into both pre- and in-service training programs and developed a national management and leadership training network in collaboration with training centers in Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City. When he's not working, Dr. Malison and his wife Christina, enjoy traveling around the Vietnamese countryside by motorbike sampling various regional foods and culture.





## “It’s an opportunity to give”

**Jim Butterfield, Professor of Political Science**

*Home institution: Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI*

*Host institution in Vietnam: The University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City*

*Fields: Comparative politics and international relations*

“Academic sabbaticals are a wonderful time to explore new horizons, gain new experiences, and learn about other places and people in a way that can enhance one’s teaching at home and be personally enriching. It also provides an opportunity to give. To that end, I applied

graphic. It was exciting to work with Vietnamese students to enhance their knowledge and skills. Among other exercises, I organized formal, structured debates in class, something the students had no prior experience with. They learned about peer-reviewed sources and how to hone their positions into

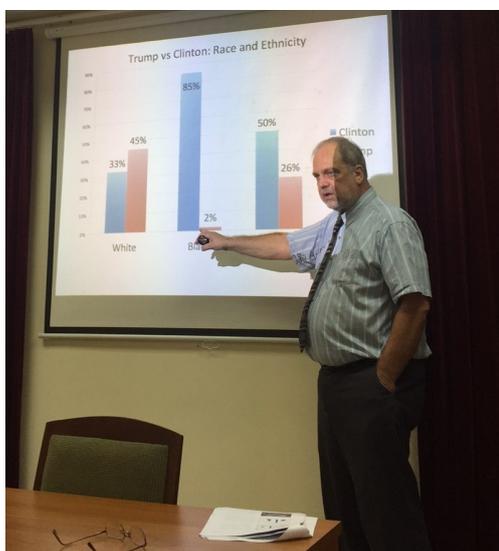


I was in Vietnam during the US Presidential election. I was surprised at just how much interest there was. I was invited for inter-

views with over a dozen print, broadcast and digital media outlets starting in late October and continuing until after the inauguration. Interest in (and fascination with) the US is very high.

The Vietnamese people are warm and engaging. The food is great and the country is diverse in its beauty and culture. The language barrier was sometimes a challenge, but one that is not difficult to overcome. Im-

mersing into the culture is one of the benefits of a Fulbright placement. Establishing personal connections (I maintain contact with both students and colleagues) is another.”



for a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach in Vietnam, a country I’d never been to. For five months starting in September 2016, I taught courses in international organizations and American foreign policy to third and fourth-year students.

Why Vietnam? It’s simultaneously a vibrant, ancient culture and a dynamic, rapidly modernizing country with a very youthful demo-



succinct and persuasive arguments. Afterward, they analyzed their own skill development: what they were good at and what needed more work, and how such skills might enhance their career development.

**QUICK FACT**

Operating in Vietnam for **nine** years, the English Teaching Assistantship Program (ETA) has sent **116** American graduates to Vietnam to help English teaching. **75** gifted high schools, universities and colleges in **47** cities have benefited from Fulbright ETAs.



*“Chelsea is one of the most brilliant English teachers I have ever known. I feel very lucky to have a chance working with Chelsea and I realize that her success did not lie in how long she had been teaching but in her dedication and enthusiasm for the job.”*

Ms. Tran Thi Vu Hang - teacher



*“Ms. Chelsea is like a miracle during my first year at high school. If I had a chance to meet her again, I would definitely tell her ‘thank you!’.”*

Nguyễn Thảo Anh - student

## U.S. & Vietnam: “more alike than different”

*A young and enthusiastic ETA, Chelsea Kerbaugh had one successful year in Nam Dinh helping English teaching and learning at Le Hong Phong Gifted High School. Not only being popular among her colleagues and students for her contributions, Chelsea was also an outstanding Fulbright cultural ambassador whose on-going works have helped promote mutual understanding. A music teacher, Chelsea had the honor to perform the National Anthem of the United States for President Obama’s Speech event at the Vietnam National Convention Center in May 2016. Let’s get to know more about her through her story below.*



“My name is **Chelsea Kerbaugh**. I originally hail from the Midwest in the state of North Dakota! From a young age I’ve been passionate about traveling, music, and other cultures and knew I was meant to go explore the world and experience it personally. I graduated from Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD in December 2014 with my degree in music education. I taught for six months in a US public school before I served my Fulbright year in Vietnam as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant at Le Hong Phong Gifted High School in Nam Dinh Province. After one year of living and working in Vietnam, I fell in love with this wonderful country and my passion for teaching has been empowered. Therefore, I decided stay in Vietnam for more

years upon my grant completion. Currently I am a music teacher at Singapore International School @ Van Phuc. Vietnam continues to capture my heart and my wanting to serve the community around me. During my year as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in

Nam Dinh, I had very many successes big and small, but the greatest success I had was being able to give all I had to share and offer with the students, staff, and community. Whether it was teaching methods, English language instruction, sharing American culture, or co-managing an English language conference with my fellow Fulbright ETAs I learned what it meant to give all of myself away to the community and share who I was as an American and as a person. In return I learned a great deal about Vietnamese culture and people. Between the people of Nam Dinh and myself, we formed a bridge connecting our two worlds, no matter how different they may be, to form common ground. We are more alike than different.”

CHELSEA KERBAUGH





## “One thousand and one night in America”

*Tong Dieu Quynh, distinguished herself as a young activist for human rights, has a great passion in promoting freedom of choice and challenging social stereotypes. Quynh won the Fulbright grant in 2016 and is now pursuing a master's program in Public Affairs at Cornell University. From America, Quynh sends home a story that reflects well on her own observations and experiences, and tell us a little about her current project and future plan.*

When I was a small kid, I often cried myself to sleep thinking of the people who lived in wars and poverty. I had to refrain myself from watching the news about them because it caused too much pain to my little heart. I remember spending many nights trying to find a solution to end all kinds of suffering and make people's lives better. Those nights have shaped the way I live for the past 20 years.



In the search of an answer, I have worked for non-profit organizations, traveled to various places, explores different philosophies and am now studying in the US as a Fulbright fellow. The more I am exposed to the world and people, the clearer the answer seems to me. I realized that I always wanted people to live in peace with each other, yet I didn't get along with my own family. I wanted people to embrace diversity but I myself still held on to certain stereotypes and prejudices. I want people to communicate for better under-



standing, yet many times I myself refused to talk. It came to me that I don't need to change the world, I just need to change

myself. And I will use my stories of change to inspire other people.

Life at Cornell is perfect for me to test my resolution. For me, Cornell is the world in small scale with people of all nationalities. Exposure to the wide diversity of looks, personalities, thoughts, and beliefs has significantly expanded my tolerance level. I researched and practiced ways to work in a team with fellows from diverse backgrounds. From a person who hated teamwork and screwed up every time, I smoothly led my team in class projects. More importantly, I earned for myself really good friends, which never happened to me before. I practiced communication with compassion and transformed my relationships with my family. That also helped me establish new meaningful friendships in the US. To deal with the demanding life of an Ivy League student, I practiced mindfulness and managed to keep myself happy and peaceful every day. This positive attitude enabled me to work much more effectively and achieve straight As in school without having stress.

Currently, I livestream weekly on my Facebook to share those stories of change,



currently with more than 1,200 followers. I call the series “One thousand and one night in America”, borrowing the name from the *Arabian Nights* tales. I try to draw lessons from each story and generalize them into methods that everyone can easily apply to improve their quality of life. For example, I suggested four steps people can use to give positive feedback and resolve conflicts when



working with people. Or I listed ways that introverted people like me could use to leverage strengths and overcome weaknesses. Moreover, there is too much negativity on the Internet nowadays, I want to spread the energy of positivity and inspiration through my videos.

I plan to write a book about my journey of transformation in the future. At the moment, I am still learning, mostly about my inner self, and testing the impacts of different changes. In 2016, I had the chance to visit Gandhi's house in India

where I was struck by his words: “My life is my message.” What I am doing and the way I am living my life is my message, my contribution to bringing about a better world for all of us.

## Teaching Vietnamese Language in America?

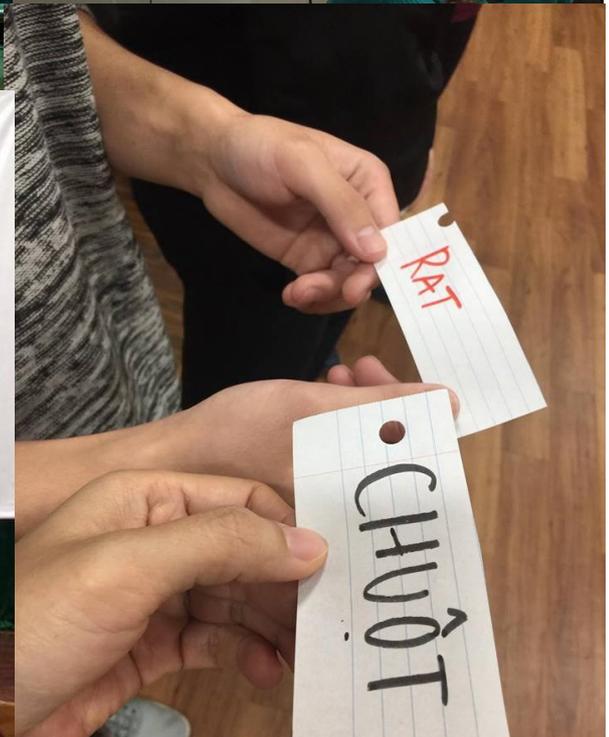
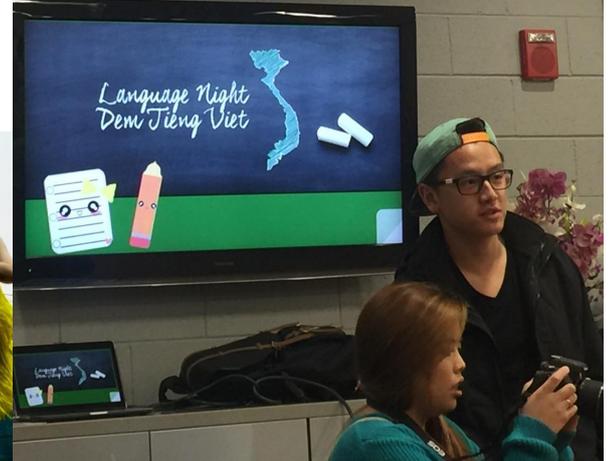
Yes! Why not?

The Fulbright FLTA Program is a nine-month, ECA-funded, non-degree program for early career English teachers or professionals in related fields (e.g., American Studies, American/English Literature, etc.). Participants have the opportunity to refine their teaching skills, increase their English language proficiency and extend their knowledge of the society and culture of the United States, while being teaching assistants for their native language to U.S. students and strengthening

foreign language instruction at U.S. colleges and universities. Fulbright FLTA participants also interact with their host communities in conversation groups, extracurricular activities, and community outreach projects.

Since 2014, Vietnam has sent three cohorts with 11 FLTA grantees in total to the U.S. under this program. The number of participants is expected to grow in the coming years.

Find out more about the 11 FLTAs next page.





**FLTAs (2014 - 2016)**

**2014 (bottom)**

1. Duong Huyen Tham  
Lecturer, Thai Nguyen University
2. Nguyen Hoang Vy  
English teacher, Danang Foreign Languages Center
3. Le Thi Anh Tuyen  
English teacher, Phan Chau Trinh High School, Danang

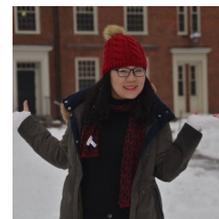
**2015 (left)**

1. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha  
Lecturer, Hanoi National University of Education
2. Nguyen Thi Minh Thanh  
Lecturer, Hanoi National University of Education

3. Nguyen Thi Huong  
Lecturer, Metropolitan University
4. Hoang Thi Thu Hien  
Lecturer, Quy Nhon University

**2016 (right)**

1. Tran Diem Trang  
Teacher, Thoai Ngoc Hau Gifted High School, An Giang
2. Pham Thi Thanh Huyen  
Lecturer, Thai Binh University of Medicine
3. Duong Hong Anh  
Lecturer, VNU-ULIS
4. Truong Thi Giang Chau  
Lecturer, Hue Industrial College



## Dennis Berg Memorial



Dennis F. Berg, professor emeritus of sociology from Cal State Fullerton, an extraordinary Fulbright scholar died Jan. 19, aged 77 in Vietnam.

Dr. Berg spent the 2001-02 academic year in Vietnam, working with Vietnam National University. He first visited Vietnam in 1991 as part of a delegation training Eng-

lish teachers. He returned numerous times in the years that followed to serve as an exchange professor and expert on higher education.

Following his retirement, he spent most of his time in Vietnam, where he served as a foreign adviser/facilitator for the Southeast Asian Ministries of Education. In 2010, Dr. Berg was awarded Vietnam's National Medal for Education Achievements, the highest honor bestowed on educators. He was among the first two foreign recipients to receive this medal.

A great friend of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, Dr. Berg devoted his spare time on numerous occasions to supporting the Fulbright application and selection process. He helped read the applications, interview candidates, and review selection criteria. And he was not beneath assisting with even more tedious tasks such as filling in as

a last-minute-note-taker for Fulbright selection meetings. He wanted to make a difference in people's lives. And he did.

He died in the loving memory of all the people who were lucky enough to work with him or know him.

"Dennis was a profoundly generous, conscientious and kind man - I've never met anybody quite like him and I will certainly miss his analytical mind, his giving nature, his clear thinking, and all of his boundless good energy, sharing and creating opportunities for so many, many people," said his colleague at Tan Tao University.

"With great joy he helped so many, including myself, become the best version of themselves that they could become. He will be greatly missed," said his son, Jason Berg.

Goodbye, Dennis! You'll be missed.



Fulbright Program in Vietnam  
Public Affairs Section - U.S. Embassy  
Rose Garden Tower, 170 Ngoc Khanh, Ba Dinh, Hanoi  
Phone: (+844)3850-5000/ Fax: (+844) 3850-5120  
Email: [vntfulbright@gmail.com](mailto:vntfulbright@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/education-culture/fulbright-program-vietnam/>