

INSIDE

Message from the Ambassador

1 MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Dear Fulbrighters,

Looking back at more than four years as U.S. Ambassador in Vietnam, it seems hard to believe how far the U.S.-Vietnam relationship has come in a relatively short time. The expected ratification of the bilateral trade agreement will mark the full normalization of relations and initiate a new era of expanding trade and expanding ties between our two countries.

2 FULBRIGHTER NEWS
 Fulbrighters bid farewell to Ambassador and Mrs. Peterson

The process of normalization, however, has been built on foundations laid well before my arrival in Hanoi in 1997. We recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of the opening of the offices of the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting in Vietnam, whose continuing effort to determine the fate of American service personnel missing since the war has been the first priority of the U.S. Mission. The Fulbright program has almost as long a history in postwar Vietnam, beginning long before we established diplomatic relations and opened the embassy. Some of you thus qualify as pioneers and trailblazers of this new, constructive, forward-looking relationship.

U.S. Fulbright Scholars and Students chosen

3 FULBRIGHT STORY
 Dr. Mart Stewart leads first American Studies courses

The growing ranks of Fulbright alumni in Vietnam will be a key source of the skills needed to implement the BTA successfully. And the smaller but also steadily increasing number of alumni in the U.S. will continue to enrich the understanding of Vietnam among our fellow citizens, to the benefit of both countries. The program is a living testimonial to the ideals of Senator Fulbright, who conceived it in the aftermath of World War II as a kind of vaccine to inoculate the countries of the world against the misunderstandings and shortsightedness that, in his view, contributed to the outbreak of that war. Not just the academic knowledge and training that you gain in your research and coursework or leave to your students, but also the web of personal contacts in one another's countries that you bring back with you from your program, are precious elements in our mutual engagement.

4 FULBRIGHT FEATURE
 Vietnamese Fulbright Students depart for the U.S

As we leave Vietnam, Vi and I know that we will be back. Wherever we may be, we will watch your progress and success in the future.

Sincerely,



Pete Peterson

Fulbright News is issued monthly by the Public Affairs Section - Hanoi to Fulbright students, scholars and alumni. All articles printed in Fulbright News reflect the opinions of the author and are not necessarily those of PAS - Hanoi. All material can be freely reproduced if acknowledgement is provided. Please notify us if, for any reason, you do not wish to receive this newsletter.

Fulbrighters Bid Farewell to Ambassador and Mrs. Peterson

The Fulbright Program in Vietnam had the privilege to hold a farewell luncheon for Ambassador and Mrs. Peterson on July 11. About 80 Fulbrighters and guests attended the luncheon at the Daewoo Hotel in Hanoi, and took this opportunity to personally thank and bid farewell to Ambassador and Mrs. Peterson.

In a welcoming speech, David B. Monk, Counselor for Public Affairs, praised Ambassador Peterson for his commitment to the Fulbright Program in Vietnam and his role in building relations between the United States and Vietnam. On the latter, he said, "Ambassador Peterson has played a pivotal role in bringing U.S.-Vietnam relations closer. Even though he will return home to the U.S. soon, he will not be forgotten, as he has left his marks on U.S.-Vietnam relations."

The Ambassador's inspirational speech on the role of education in Vietnam's development was the highlight of the event. He emphasized the unique importance of education in the development process and the responsibilities of the Fulbrighters who had obtained their education in the United States. "By studying in the United States and returning to Vietnam, you bring back knowledge to thousands of your countrymen, and that is the basis of Vietnam's development," he said. He extended a personal challenge to Fulbrighters, to make a difference and to help build Vietnam.

Following his speech, the Ambassador presented Fulbright Certificates of Participation to Fulbrighters who recently returned to Vietnam from the U.S.

Concluding the event, Ms. Duong Hong Anh, a linguist from the College of Social Sciences & Humanities and a Fulbright visiting scholar to U.C. Berkeley, academic year 2000-01, elegantly expressed her personal gratitude to the Fulbright Program and her best wishes to Ambassador and Mrs. Peterson. She said, "The benefits of being in the Fulbright Program are tremendous. My Fulbright experience had helped me grow not only professionally and academically, but also personally." She went on to recall meeting the Ambassador for the first time at a pagoda and her warm impression of him at the time. Quoting President Clinton, Ms. Duong continued, "No other American can serve his country and Vietnam better than Ambassador Peterson." She could not agree more. On behalf of all Vietnamese Fulbrighters, she offered Ambassador and Mrs. Peterson best wishes and hopes that they will return to Vietnam soon.

Fulbrighter News



Ambassador and Mrs. Peterson with Ms. Duong Hong Anh, a recent Vietnamese Fulbright Scholar, who spoke at the farewell luncheon.



Ambassador Peterson presenting Fulbright Certificate of Participation to Dr. Do Duc Dinh.

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: _____

Fulbrighter News

U.S. Fulbright Scholars and Students Chosen for This Year's Program

Candidates for this year's U.S. Fulbright Scholar and Student programs have been chosen. This year's group includes 9 scholars and 7 students. Their academic and professional backgrounds range environmental sociology to American history and HIV prevention to economic development.

If you are interested in providing advice and mentoring for the new Fulbrighters, please contact the Fulbright Program office.

U.S. Scholars	Specialties/Topics	U.S. Students	Field of Study
Dr. Dennis F. Berg	Environmental Studies, Sustainable Development & Poverty	Mr. Erik L. Harms	Anthropology
Dr. Donn J. Colby	HIV Prevalence & Men Sexual Health Risk	Ms. Christina B. Pham	Vietnamese Business Practice
Dr. Herbert H. Covert	Paleoanthropology in Vietnam	Mr. William P. Pore	Modern History
Dr. Kevin J. Ferlund	American History, Environmental History, Cold War, & U.S. West	Mr. Benny B. Tran	Education
Dr. Rukmalie Jayakody	Women's Migration and Employment	Mr. Vu Anh Le	Southeast Asian History
Dr. William M. Leary	American History	Ms. Payton W. Deeks	Environmental Studies
Dr. Jay K. Miller	Mass Media & Broadcast News	Mr. Edward G. Miller	History
Dr. Philip C. Nasca	Public Health Surveillance Systems		
Dr. Donald M. Peppard, Jr.	Urban Economics & Public Finance		

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/wwwfhfp.html>

Fulbright Story

U.S. Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Mart Stewart, develops American Studies courses for the Center for International Educational and Cultural Exchange and Research (CIECER) of the HCMC University of Education

Dr. Stewart, from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington State, first arrived in Vietnam in December 1996 to meet with lecturers at the Vietnam National University-HCMC about the teaching of American History and English courses. At that time, there were few courses of any sort in American studies or history offered in Vietnam's universities. Even the English Resource Center (ERC) at the university was sparsely supplied with literatures on American Studies, he noticed. At that time, he sent several boxes of textbooks to the ERC and developed an interest in coming back to Vietnam and help universities develop American Studies courses.

In the Fall of 2000, Dr. Stewart returned to Vietnam, under the sponsorship of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, to work with the Center for International Educational and Cultural Exchange and Research (CIECER), HCMC University of Education. Since then, he has developed and led several courses lasting three months each on American Studies. The objective of the courses is to provide students with knowledge on American history, geography, culture, education, political system, people, and customs.

Recently, "Lao Dong (Labor)" newspaper interviewed Dr. Mart Stewart on the misconceptions of American culture held by Vietnamese people and his work in Vietnam. This is not the first time Dr. Stewart appears in the local newspapers and publications. His work on the development and training of teachers for American Studies courses in Vietnam is well known around the academic community in HCMC.

When asked what are some of the common misconceptions about American cultural he has encountered, Dr. Stewart replied, "The comments I received are that Americans do not respect their families and elder, they divorce too much, they have too much money, but wasteful, etc." In order to better understand any culture, not just American, he stressed the importance of resisting prejudice and discrimination. The one thing Dr. Stewart hopes students walk away with is the appreciation of the complexity and richness of the American culture. "The U.S. is a multicultural country. To understand Americans, we must look into different groups, African American, Asian American, indigenous people, and many more that inhabit the land", he said.

Fulbright Feature

Vietnamese Fulbright Students Prepare to Study in the U.S.

For the academic year 2001-2002, the Vietnamese Fulbright Student Program received 343 applications for 25 fully funded fellowships for study in the United States. Candidates must have completed a bachelor degree with five years relevant work experience in their chosen field of study and have an acceptable TOEFL score. After the preliminary round, successful candidates are required to submit full academic records, four letters of reference, two personal statements, and completed an interview process.

Many of this year's Fulbright students will depart for the U.S. to begin their academic programs this month. Twenty-seven students will attend pre-academic programs aimed at introducing them to graduate-level study in the U.S. and offering them additional training in English. These programs end in mid-August when students then begin their main academic programs. This year's Fulbrighters will attend a wide range of main programs from rural development and environmental health, to economics and law at various U.S. institutions such as the University of Oklahoma, the University of Arizona, Yale University, the University of Michigan, and Boston College.

To find out more about Fulbrighters' expectations, the Fulbright Program in Vietnam asks, Ms. Trinh Thi Thuy Lien, Nguyen Buu Huan, and Ms. Bo Thi Hong Mai.

Ms. Trinh Thi Thuy Lien currently lives in Hanoi and works for DKT, an international NGO in Vietnam. She will study communications at the University of Hawaii this Fall. We ask her what she hopes to achieve while in the U.S. She replies, "My main priority will be to study and learn about communications." Besides academic studies, cultural exchange is one of the many benefits that Fulbrighters will experience during their time in the U.S. "I am also very interested in meeting with other students to share information with them about Vietnam," she concludes.

Adjusting to life in a foreign country can be both overwhelming and exciting for many Fulbrighters who never have been to the U.S. before. "I am excited to go to New York, a famous city which I have heard many things about," explains Mr. Nguyen Buu Huan, a higher education administration student. He will attend Rutgers University in New Jersey, just a short train ride from Manhattan. Currently, Mr. Huan is the assistant director of the Center for Foreign Languages and a lecturer at Can Tho University. One of the main objectives of the Fulbright Program is to provide training for mid-career professionals, so that they can return to Vietnam and apply what they have learned to their work. Mr. Huan intends to do just that. "I hope to absorb a lot from my program so I can design the best curriculum for my department when I return to Vietnam," Mr. Huan said.

The lengthy application and placement process has given Fulbrighters a common link that will help them during their time in the U.S. and when they return to Vietnam. When asked about her experience as a Fulbrighter to this point, Ms. Bo Thi Hong Mai, a reporter for Reuters who will be studying Journalism at NYU, replies "Fulbright brought us closer together and many of us have become friends. As departing dates come, our group has gathered together more often to say farewell and to exchange experiences," she continues, "we all feel the need to talk, to share and to support each other."