

where she will give lectures and develop a curriculum about post-wars issues in Vietnam.

Nguyen Van Suu is a lecturer at the Department of Anthropology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH), Vietnam National University in Hanoi. He received his BA degrees in History in 1997, in English Language in 1999, and completed his PhD at the Australian National University in 2004. After returning to Hanoi, he started to teach a course on Contemporary History of Vietnam and Introduction to Ethnology. He has regularly given field instruction and supervision to undergraduate students in the fields of history and anthropology.



Nguyen Van Suu

His research interests include agricultural collectivization and de-

collectivization, agrarian reforms, private property, land appropriation, rural differentiation, rural livelihoods, local conflicts, and field research methods. During the past years, he has published several articles and book chapters on issues of agricultural land, peasants, and the state in Vietnamese and English.

Suu is currently at **Whitman College** in Walla Walla, Washington where he is hosted by Professor Brian Dott. He is studying their anthropology curriculum, teaching methods and is revising his PhD dissertation for publication.

Tran Le Hoa Tranh is a lecturer at the Faculty of Literature, Linguistics and Journalism, University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH), Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. She received her BA in Literature in 1994, in English Language in 1996, completed her MA in Vietnamese Literature in 1998, and completed her Ph.D. in History and Theory Literature in 2006. She teaches courses in Vietnamese Literature, Chinese Literature, and Chinese Film in the Department of Oriental Studies and Department of Chinese Linguistics. She also teaches in the

Talent High School of the National University in HCMC. Her research interests include Vietnamese contemporary literature, Vietnamese culture, Chinese classical fiction, contemporary Chinese literature and culture, women writers in Vietnam and China, and fiction in film. She has published over 10 articles and books on Vietnamese and Chinese literature, focusing on contemporary and women's issues.



Tran Le Hoa Tranh

Tran is at the **University of Findlay** in Ohio where she is hosted by Professor Hiroaki Kawamura. She gives public lectures, visits classes, and participates in roundtable discussions. She is also attending several courses to learn about teaching methods for undergraduate students.

Vietnam-ASIANetwork Faculty Exchange: Views from Both Sides

After completing the first year of the Vietnam-USA Academic Exchange program, we asked Vietnamese scholars and their faculty hosts to share their reflections on their experiences with this program. We received contributions from scholars and hosts at Hobart and William Smith Colleges (Dr. Tran Thi Phuong Phuong and Professor Jack Harris) and from the University of Puget Sound (Dr. Nguyen Quy Thanh and Professor Karl Fields).

Hobart and William Smith Colleges:

Jack Harris: Dr. Tran Thi Phuong Phuong of the Department of Literature, Linguistics and Journalism, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, arrived for the 2006 spring semester at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY, in the thick of winter. We welcomed her arrival with an open house and introduced her to the close community of the small liberal arts college. Phuong Phuong had a wonderful research agenda planned on Leo Tolstoy and had access to the Colleges library and

extensive inter-library loan capability. She reports that she was able to collect a wealth of research materials that has provided an excellent base for future research efforts.

Professor Phuong Phuong was an effective resource on Vietnamese and Russian Literature, and attended several courses in Russian Area Studies, her specialty, and assisted in the Sociology of Vietnam course. Our guest was in demand for classroom presentations; she also gave a faculty seminar on Vietnamese women's poetry and a public talk on Vietnamese national identity and history. She befriended many students and faculty and

negotiated American customs and food with grace. We had several opportunities to enjoy Vietnamese food, Vietnamese music, and even to celebrate Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. Having on our campus a visiting Vietnamese scholar enriched our academic connections between Hobart and William Smith Colleges and Professor Phuong Phuong's Vietnamese university in Ho Chi Minh City.

In exchange, Professor Jack Harris visited Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City in January, 2007. Professor Harris offered guest lectures in several

areas, including sociology and gender studies and also gave several public talks and seminars. In addition, Professor Harris undertook Men's Studies field research on Vietnamese marriage and marital infidelity.

Both Professors are eager to establish an on-going relationship of schools and scholar/teachers. We are grateful to ASIANetwork's Faculty Exchange Program, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation and administered by the American Council of Learned Societies/Center for Education Exchange with Vietnam for the opportunity to have this exchange.

Tran Thi Phuong Phuong: The main purpose of my trip to the US was to learn teaching methods and to experience the classroom environment. I believe these goals were achieved during my time at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. I attended classes given by professors with different nationalities (American, Russian, Chinese, French, and South African); such kind of international environment is necessary and useful for higher education.

The most interesting aspect for me was learning how to use technology in teaching, especially in social sciences and humanities. Teachers use electronic lectures and internet resources, show pictures, play music and screen films in class. Vietnamese colleges do not have technologies as good as in US colleges; however, I think that using technology could certainly be possible if the teachers have the desire and skill to use them.

Another thing that caught my interest was students' independent studies: the topics were different and required certain level of skills from the students. I think the US students have more chances to apply their knowledge in the society than Vietnamese students.

My experience during this exchange program will benefit me and my university in various ways:

- My college in Vietnam is now in the process of transformation from the academic year system into the credit system and is encountering many difficulties. I hope that my experiences in the US can help me, my colleagues, and the students to adjust to this process of transformation.
- My trip demonstrated to me that interdisciplinary approaches in teaching and studying are more effective. The

One important thing that I have learned from my visit is that the colleges, both Vietnamese and American, still have to do a lot to help the students, and the people in general, in understanding the culture of other countries, which is very necessary in the development of international relationships.

materials on the studies of art, literature, cultural interactions between the East and the West that I have collected here are helpful for me and for my colleagues in Vietnam.

- I will use more technology in my literature classes. I bought a number of CDs, DVDs, and movies, and I collected numerous pictures. Showing them in class will make the students more interested in the lectures and help them to more easily understand the topic.
- I am collaborating with The Center for National Culture Studies in Vietnam in translating from Russian into Vietnamese an 8-volume "History of World Literature," published by Gorky Institute of World Literature (Russia). The materials which I have collected during my stay in the US will be useful for us in this project.
- In the coming years, I will offer new courses on comparative literature and on cultural studies from a comparative perspective. I will also conduct research next year on poetry.

• One important thing that I have learned from my visit is that the colleges, both Vietnamese and American, still have to do a lot to help the students, and the people in general, in understanding the culture of other countries, which is very necessary in the development of international relationships. I think the Vietnam-US Faculty Exchange Program is an effective step in this direction. I hope that the program can be financially supported to be continued in the future.

University of Puget Sound:

Karl Fields: The Asian Studies Program at the University of Puget Sound

hosted Professor Nguyen Quy Thanh, Faculty of Sociology, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi as part of the Luce-funded and ASIANetwork—ACLS/CEEVN sponsored Vietnam-USA Exchange Program. Professor Nguyen arrived on campus on January 17, 2006 and departed exactly five months later on June 17, 2006. By all accounts, the experience exceeded our (and we hope Quy Thanh's) expectations and proved to be a boon to our Asian Studies faculty and many students both in our program and across the campus. We hope to maintain close ties with Professor Nguyen and to enhance the connections and contacts between our students and faculty and institutions in Vietnam, including Professor Nguyen's home institution, Vietnam National University. This effort will be facilitated as Professor Carlo Bonura from Puget Sound visits Vietnam as the second part of the exchange in January of 2007. I will elaborate briefly on both Professor Nguyen's stay with us and Professor Bonura's plans for his visit to Vietnam.

Dr. Nguyen was the model ambassador for this program. He is bright, personable, well-traveled, and proved remarkably flexible and tolerant as we worked out a few bugs with his accommodations and other logistical matters in the early part of his stay. He had ambitious objectives for his stay and, I believe, accomplished all of them and more. While here, he attended classes to observe American pedagogical methods and style, discussed curriculum and syllabi development with numerous faculty and collected a host of materials; pursued joint research projects with American scholars and discussed potential research projects with faculty colleagues on our campus, pursued his research on several ongoing projects and at least one new project, presented his research at a campus colloquium, guest lectured in several courses on campus, attended various colloquia and lectures on campus and the ASIANetwork annual meetings, and toured local and national sites of interest. I should note that Quy Thanh also worked very hard on improving his already quite-fluent English to great effect. With Professor Thanh's assistance, we were also able to arrange for the gifting and shipping of approximately 100 new and used reference, text, and other relevant books

(continued on next page)

With Professor Thanh's assistance, we were also able to arrange for the gifting and shipping of approximately 100 new and used reference, text, and other relevant books to VNU's University of Social Sciences and Humanities.

to VNU's University of Social Sciences and Humanities.

As part of the exchange program, Professor Nguyen will also host Professor Carlo Bonura, a member of Puget Sound's Department of Political Science and Asian Studies Program. Already on research sabbatical in Thailand, Professor Bonura will travel from Bangkok to Hanoi in January 2007 for a one-month stay. During this month in Vietnam, Professor Bonura will explore the structure of political science as a discipline in Vietnam. The establishment of a communist academy after Vietnamese independence and its expansion to southern Vietnam after 1975 has required what would be recognized as political science in the United States not only to include the general study of politics but also to provide courses in "political studies" that are based on the primary texts of communist political theory. In conversations with Vietnamese academics in political science and philosophy, he hopes to investigate this double role of political science.

Nguyen Quy Thanh: My trip to the University of Puget Sound (UPS), Tacoma, Washington was my second trip to the US.

I was in sunny Hawaii in 2004 and this time I had a chance to experience the cold and windy weather in the Northwest part of US. I arrived in Tacoma in the middle of winter but the hospitality of the professors at UPS, especially of my host, Professor Karl Fields, made me feel "warmer" and lesser nostalgic.

During my stay at UPS, Professor Karl Fields had connected me to many professors. Since, I am interested in syllabus design, method of teaching, and method of learning, I was eager to attend different classes. In those classes I have learned a lot about the way UPS professor facilitate the class and the way students study. It is very useful for me since we are now in the process of renovation of our methods of teaching/learning. I also discussed curriculum development and syllabus design with UPS professors.

At UPS, I wanted to not only be a passive observer, thus I actively participated in many activities such as Lunar New Year celebration, presentations of invited speaker; I also delivered campus lecture and some other lectures on Vietnam related topic.

The exchange program afforded me the much needed time to finish my book projects. I put the finishing touches on my book, *Sociology of Public Opinion*" which was published last January 2007 in Vietnam. By the end of my trip, I had also completed the draft of my second book on *Impact of the Internet on Student's Way of Life*. I am now doing the last round of editing and I am seeking fund for its publication.

While at UPS, I also continued with my research. I worked on my data set that I collected in Vietnam before the trip. As a result, one paper was sent out and published

in a leading sociological review in Vietnam, and one chapter written jointly with Dr. Stephen Appold, University of North Carolina on "Micro-Credit for Small Businesses in Vietnam" will appear in a book published by Rutledge Publishing House in the near future.

I consider this trip as a good chance to understand American culture and society, therefore I used all opportunities to visit, travel and to observe. In short, my trip was very productive and successful.

After I came back to Vietnam in June 2006, I immediately participated in teaching and researching activities at our university. We have been very busy, but at the same time very happy with our work. Recently, I was promoted as the deputy Director of the Center for Education Quality Assurance and Research Development of Vietnam National University-Hanoi, and as the Head of the Department of Theory and Methodology of Sociology under the Faculty of Sociology. These administrative duties make me busier, but, I see these as good ways for me to contribute to the development of our university in particular and our country in general.

From 11 January to 11 February 2007, I was very happy to host Professor Carlo Bonura, from UPS. We organized a number of activities for him. He met, discussed and interviewed with many professors at our university. He also visited some famous places in Vietnam such as Halong Bay, Aromat Pagoda (Hatay province), Hue city, Danang city including visits to old Hoi An town and My Son holy land in Quang Nam province. Although his trip was pretty short, it was very productive and successful as mine.

Strategic Planning (continued from page 3)

worked with us for four hours on Saturday morning. The subcommittee worked the rest of the weekend until noon on Sunday, refining the five or six goals we had identified, fleshing out the strategies we would use to achieve them, and determining what we would challenge ourselves to accomplish specifically in the next year. The subcommittee will polish this document in the next few weeks and distribute it among the Board members. If it receives Board approval at its April meeting, it will then be presented to the membership at the Sunday plenary session right after the business meeting at the Annual conference.

We believe this strategic planning comes at an excellent time in ASIANetwork's history. Fifteen years since its inception, it has developed an enviable reputation among funders and undergraduate institutions for offering innovative development programs that are administered in a very lean, efficient way. It has achieved a financial stability that was only hoped for in the early years. It has enjoyed consistent, dedicated leadership. It has maintained a solid core of energetic, gifted volunteers.

We can build on this tremendous foundation and do more. We no longer are focused on merely surviving; we can take the lead. But it is important that we reaffirm our mission, sharpen the vision it inspires, and choose our projects and activities carefully so that we serve our members effectively and continue to thrive.