



Cornell University

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Donald R. Viands

Associate Dean and Director
Office of Academic Programs
151 Roberts Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853-5905
t. 607.255.3081
f. 607.254.4613
e. drv3@cornell.edu

January 3, 2012

Mr. Christopher J. Fussner
Dr. Lynne A. McNamara

Dear Chris and Lynne,

I am responding to your letter requesting comments about the value and contributions of VEF to Vietnam and to the relationship between the United States and Vietnam. My experience is only with graduate students. The students that we have had from Vietnam have been excellent. They have done very well with their course work, and they have made significant contributions to research. I personally experienced one student who was in the class that I taught two years ago. He was quiet, but was the most attentive student in the class. He genuinely seemed interested in the course, and he did very well.

I also believe that Cornell is providing an excellent education to the students who return to Vietnam. We provide comprehensive course work along with training in research that enables the students to initiate and conduct a research program when the students return home. Their research will make significant contributions to Vietnam and to the world. Some of our graduate fields also require experience as a teaching assistant, which should help to prepare them to teach when they return home.

I cannot comment on the development of relationships that have been created between the two countries as a result of this program. I anticipate that relationships will be built because that has been the case with graduate students from other countries in the past. With many of them after they returned to their countries, they established collaborations with the Cornell faculty as a result of getting to know us and working with us.

I wholeheartedly recommend continuing this program for the benefit of both countries. Thank you for your leadership with VEF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald R. Viands".

Donald R. Viands
Associate Dean and Director of Academic Programs