



20th ANNIVERSARY
U.S. - VIETNAM RELATIONS
1995 - 2015

VIETNAM
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION



VEF Alumni: **Leading Change**

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) exchange programs have strengthened the mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of Vietnam through educational exchange. Nearly 580 Vietnamese students and scholars and 34 U.S. professors have participated in our exchange programs, and about 300 have returned to Vietnam. These VEF alumni have taken their experience back to create positive changes and to make significant contributions to Vietnam. The alumni in this brochure represent this incredible group of highly trained and talented individuals, who will help to build the capacity of STEM fields in Vietnam and bring the two countries closer together.



Nguyen Duc CAO

(CAO Đức Nguyễn)

Purdue University
Degree: Master's

Cohort Year: 2008 Graduation Year: 2010
Subject: Computer Science
Current Position: Founder, UseData Ltd., HCMC, Vietnam

I founded UseData (www.usedata.vn) in August 2014. This is a big data analysis company focused on serving E-commerce businesses in the Vietnamese market. Our services are on the way to the market and we have received positive feedback from potential customers such as Nguyen Kim (www.nguyenkim.com, chotot.vn, 123mua.vn). We will integrate our services with Haravan.com (a clone Shopify.com model in VN) at the end of June 2015.



Thong Trung DO

(ĐỖ Trung Thông)

Johns Hopkins University
Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2004 Graduation Year: 2010
Subject: Electrical and Computer Engineering
Current Position: Co-Founder & Managing Director, Adatao Inc., HCMC, Vietnam

We currently have 30 employees, including 15 Employees in the Vietnam Office. Ninety percent of them have MS or PhD degrees from abroad (United States, Asia or Europe). VEF Fellow alumni are members of our staff. One of our missions is to employ top Vietnamese talent in software engineering and data sciences in an innovation-focused, Google-like work culture. This enables the top local talent to sharpen their advanced skills and technical knowledge in order to become world-class software engineers and data scientists. We aim to build the first Silicon Valley standard tech company in Vietnam to develop innovative data products for the global market. We closed a series A funding of \$13M last August and are growing very rapidly.



Hung Tuan DUONG

(DƯƠNG Tuấn Hưng)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2004 Graduation Year: 2009
Subject: Chemistry
Current Position: Researcher, Institute of Chemistry, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam

After getting my PhD in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2009, I returned to Vietnam to engage in research activities at the Institute of Chemistry, at the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology. Our research focuses primarily on resolving industrial and environmental issues. I was a vice principal investigator for two national-level research projects, which were graded as excellent; one of these was identified as one of the "Ten Best Scientific and Technological Achievements in Vietnam in 2014"



Toan Huu HA

(HÀ Hữu Toàn)

University of Texas at Houston
Degree: Doctor of Public Health

Cohort Year: 2004 Graduation Year: 2008
Subject: Health Promotion/Health Education
Current Position: HIV Programme Officer, United Nations Population Fund, Hanoi, Vietnam

I have worked for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Vietnam since June 2010 upon return from postdoctoral and doctoral training in the United States. My present work focuses on policy advocacy, and development and building capacity for government partners at the national and sub-national level to create a favorable environment and to improve access to sexual & reproductive health/HIV services and information for adolescents and youth in the country.



Chung Thi Thu HO

(HỒ Thị Thu Chung)

University of Texas at Austin
Degree: Master's

Cohort Year: 2008 Graduation Year: 2010
Subject: Civil Engineering
Current Position: Commercial Engineer, Turner International LLC, Hanoi, Vietnam (from November 2010)

My passion is to improve construction projects through artificial intelligence and advanced management methods. My experience in sustainability with LEED AP credential, and lean construction with BIM and integrated project delivery practices are allowing me to deliver excellent services for the construction industry.



Chau Hoai LE

(LÊ Hoài Châu)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2004 Graduation Year: 2010
Subject: Civil Engineering
Current Position: Founder, BM Research and Development Co. Ltd., Hanoi, Vietnam

I started a small company to provide engineering services for U.S.-based companies and to develop software in the area of mechanical design. We also carry out research funded by NAFOSTED (the Vietnam National Foundation for Science and Technology Development).



Hieu Khac LE

(LÊ Khắc Hiếu)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2004 Graduation Year: 2012
Subject: Computer Science
Current Position: Co-founder, TCG Inc., HCMC, Vietnam

The VEF Fellowship gave me unprecedented learning opportunities, and opened doors that I never dreamt of entering when I was still in Vietnam. During my PhD program under VEF sponsorship, I interned at many companies including Google, Amazon, and VMWare. Two years before graduation, I founded Caterva, a technology start-up. The company raised more than 2 million dollars, won the Student Start-up of the Year Award given by Champaign County, and was acquired by Facebook and InfoChimp (a Computer Sciences Corporation company). After spending more than two years with Facebook in Menlo Park, California and in London, United Kingdom, I left and co-founded TCG, a company that provides financial solutions for ordinary people around the globe. TCG is in stealth mode and fully funded. We have a development office in Vietnam, in which we not only recognize and hire the best but also recruit and train young talent to help them reach their highest potential, regardless of their background.



Ly Thi LE

(LÊ Thị Lý)

University of Utah
Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2004 Graduation Year: 2010
Subject: Chemistry
Current Position: Associate Professor and Lecturer, School of Biotechnology, International University, VNU HCMC, HCMC, Vietnam

I joined the International University (IU) faculty of the School of Biotechnology upon completion of my PhD study in 2010. I built a Computational Biology Center at IU and have led an active research group in applied Bioinformatics and Drug design. I continue VEF's mission by training more young scientists for Vietnam and by building the relationship with the United States through research collaboration. As of July 2015, we have published 34 international articles, one book and one book chapter in computer-aided drug design and pharmaceutical biotechnology.



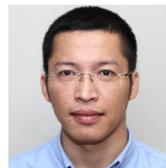
Xuyen Thi NGO

(NGÔ Thị XuyêN)

VEF Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Riverside

Cohort Year: 2007
Subject: Molecular Biology and Genomic Technologies
Current Position: Agricultural High Technology Manager, Environmental and Public, Target Company, HCMC, Vietnam

The knowledge and experience I received at the University of California, Riverside for my Fulbright and VEF Fellowships has permitted me to share what I learned with a thousand Agriculture and Biotech students and specialists at universities in Hanoi and now in Ho Chi Minh City. I am enjoying my research on Plant Protection and Biotechnology and continue to work on new high-tech solutions for Agriculture at present and looking toward the future, dealing with the consequences of climate change.



Quoc Cuong NGUYEN

(NGUYỄN Cường Quốc)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2004 Graduation Year: 2010
Subject: Epidemiology
Current Position: Associate Director, Strategic Information, Family Health International (FHI) Vietnam, Hanoi, Vietnam

I have been working with USAID/SMART TA which is funded by PEPFAR and implemented by FHI 360 in Vietnam - A 45 million U.S. dollars project that focuses on HIV in Viet Nam. I contributed significantly to data generation and usage to improve the progress and quality of HIV services in Vietnam. Our most recent article on PEPFAR expenditure analysis is highlighted by UNAIDS at: Donor pull-out: How much will it cost to fill the gap for HIV testing in Viet Nam? <http://sciencenow.unaids.org/post/close-resource-gap-33>.



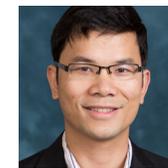
Dung Duc NGUYEN

(NGUYỄN Đức Dũng)

Northeastern University
Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2003 Graduation Year: 2008
Subject: Electrical Engineering
Current Position: CEO, Applied Plasma Technology Corporation, HCMC, Vietnam

Vietnam is an emerging market. Everyone here is hungry for new core technology. With the knowledge and experience obtained in the United States under VEF sponsorship, our APT team successfully created "Vietnamese Technology" products using renewable energy and high energy efficiency fields like solar arrays and LED lights. We also have a plan in the near future to build electric cars, wind turbines, and plasma devices to treat cancers.



Nguyen Huu Phuoc NGUYEN

(NGUYỄN Hữu Phước Nguyễn)

University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2007 Graduation Year: 2014
Subject: Mechanical Engineering
Current Position: Researcher, Viettel Research and Development (R&D) Institute, Hanoi

I joined Viettel Research and Development Institute after completing my PhD program at the University of Michigan in the United States. Currently, I am working on developing high-tech products that will serve the national interest and will be internationally known. In my (limited) spare time, I promote international education to the youth of Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces.



Luong Thi Hien NGUYEN

(NGUYỄN Thị Hiền Lương)

VEF Visiting Scholar at the Florida Atlantic University

Cohort Year: 2007
 Subject: Mechanics
 Current Position: Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, HCMC University of Technology

After working in the United States from 2007 to 2008, supported by VEF, I returned to Vietnam to continue my favorite work at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology. Using the skills I acquired in research and teaching, I established a research group in applied mechanics that included junior faculty members and graduate students. We collaborated with American professors to carry out research projects with more practical significance. In 2014, I helped to found the Bach Khoa Intellectual Women's Center of Science and Technology, where I now serve as the director. This Center provides a professional, interdisciplinary environment for female HCMUT lecturers and researchers with many additional opportunities to carry out research projects, technology transfers, short-term training, and technical-scientific services to develop their potential and contribute to the development of HCMUT and the economic and social innovation of Vietnam.



Phuong Thi Mai NGUYEN

(NGUYỄN Thị Mai Phương)

VEF Visiting Scholar at the University of Rochester

Cohort Year: 2012
 Subject: Oral Biology
 Current Position: Researcher, Institute of Biotechnology, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam

I am enjoying my work at a leading Institute in Biotechnology in Vietnam. The knowledge and experience gained from my VEF Visiting Scholar award in the United States has really helped me to acquire and administer research grants from inside and outside of Vietnam.



Hanh Thi Hong NGUYEN

(NGUYỄN Thị Hồng Hạnh)

**University of Georgia
 Degree: Master's**

Cohort Year: 2004 Graduation Year: 2007
 Subject: Zoology
 Current Position: Project Manager, Baxco Pharmaceutical Inc., Hanoi, Vietnam

Based on the valuable experience I had studying and working in the United States, I have been employed in an important management position at an American company, and now will be working meantime, I am also a Hanoi-based volunteer and coordinator for an American NGO fighting against human trafficking in Vietnam.



Anh Tuan NGUYEN

(NGUYỄN Anh Tuấn)

**University of Texas at Houston
 Degree: PhD**

Cohort Year: 2010 Graduation Year: 2014
 Subject: Epidemiology
 Current Position: Quality Management Specialist, Vinmec International Hospital, Hanoi, Vietnam

I got my PhD degree in Epidemiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston in May 2014. Our team at Vinmec International Hospital has successfully achieved accreditation for quality from the Joint Commission International, the first such accreditation for a general hospital in Vietnam. I also work on the hospital research team, using stem cells in regenerative medicine and immune cells in cancer management.



Yen Bao PHAM

(PHẠM Bảo Yên)

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
 Degree: PhD**

Cohort Year: 2004 Graduation Year: 2010
 Subject: Biochemistry and Biophysics
 Current Position: Researcher, Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam National University Hanoi, Hanoi, Vietnam

Since 2012, I have been awarded two grants that total approximately \$70,000 USD from the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Vietnam National University in Hanoi. In 2013, I got a Borlaug Fellowship coordinated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to carry out a research project at Louisiana State University.



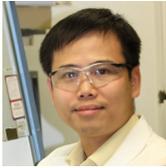
The Hai PHAM

(PHẠM Thế Hải)

VEF Visiting Scholar at the University of Utah

Cohort Year: 2009
 Subject: Microbiology; Bacterial Chemotaxis and Bioremediation
 Current Position: Vice Dean, Department of Biology, Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam National University Hanoi, Hanoi, Vietnam

I am currently the Vice Dean, Department of Biology, Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam National University Hanoi. I have received two national-level research grants to pursue my research interest, which partially stems from my study in the United States.



Liem Minh PHAN

(PHAN Minh Liêm)

University of Texas at Houston

Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2005 Graduation Year: 2012
 Subject: Biomedical Sciences, Cell Biology
 Current Position: Academic Training: Postdoctoral Fellow, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

After obtaining my PhD degree in biomedical science and cancer research from MD Anderson Cancer Center, I am now continuing my research projects with a focus on studying the regulation of cancer energy metabolism and signal transduction. We have recently discovered two new methods that can effectively and precisely eliminate cancer cells by shutting down their energy production and survival signaling without damaging normal cells. Our research projects have received multiple awards from the Department of Defense, the U.S. Congress, the Rosalie B. Hite Foundation, Cancer Answers Foundation, and many others. The scientific findings we discovered are promising and could serve as a scientific foundation to develop effective therapies for cancer in the future.



Ha Thi Thu PHAN

(PHAN Thị Thu Hà)

University of Texas at Houston

Degree: Doctor of Public Health

Cohort Year: 2004 Graduation Year: 2009
 Subject: Public Health
 Current Position: In-Country Representative, University of California, San Francisco, Hanoi, Vietnam

As a Country Representative for the University of California, San Francisco in Hanoi, Vietnam, and a Study Coordinator, I have been engaging in a series of clinical trials for Tuberculosis treatment in Hanoi. In 2012, we received the Sanman Tapy award from the Tuberculosis Trial Consortium (TBTC) for study coordinator/study team excellence and in 2013 we were ranked second among 20 sites of TBTC for successfully enrolling patients in the study.



Mai Ngoc Anh TRAN

(TRẦN Ngọc Ánh Mai)

University of Texas at Houston

Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2007 Graduation Year: 2013
 Subject: Biomedical Sciences
 Current Position: Lecturer, Department of Biotechnology, International University, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

I am the managing editor for the Vietnam Journal of Science, and I am teaching biology-related subjects at school to transfer the knowledge I acquired in the United States to Vietnamese students



Thua Nguyen Nhi TRAN

(TRẦN Nguyễn Nhi Thừa)

Cornell University

Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2005 Graduation Year: 2012
 Subject: Biological and Environmental Sciences
 Current Position: Co-founder, Quang Ngoc Co. Ltd., Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Vietnam

Good health is always greatly desirable. Nutrition plays a critical role in maintaining good health although many people are not aware of this. Our bodies are designed so that they can defend themselves and recover from illness, and proper nutrients are the energy source for the body to function properly. With the ambition of bringing good health to people, and reducing the overload of patient numbers in the hospitals, we aim to manufacture and distribute our own world class food supplement products at low prices, between \$1-2 per day, so that even poor people can acquire good health thanks to the achievements of science and technology. This is my contribution to Vietnam after study in the United States.



Hung Viet TRAN

(TRẦN Việt Hùng)

University of Iowa

Degree: PhD

Cohort Year: 2007 Graduation Year: 2012
 Subject: Computer Science
 Current Position: Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Tutor Universe, Inc., Iowa City, IA

I am the Founder and CEO of Gott!, a Silicon Valley based venture-backed startup building the world's first On Demand Platform for Knowledge. Our first application on top of the platform is one of the top 15 educational apps in the U.S. Apple App Store. We raised close to \$4 million in funding and assembled a talented team of 25, including 7 software engineers in our Hanoi office. We have been investing heavily in our team in Vietnam to turn local engineers into world class scientists who can work with their colleagues in Silicon Valley to build products and services serving millions of users around the world.



Dao Thi Anh TRUONG

(TRUÔNG Thị Anh Đào)

VEF Visiting Scholar at the University of Massachusetts Boston

Cohort Year: 2007
 Subject: Experiment Physics Teaching
 Current Position: Lecturer, Department of Environmental Technology and Management, Van Lang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

I am currently a lecturer for courses on "Environment Statistics" and "Renewable Energy" at the Master's, and "General physics" at the undergraduate level. We have been improving the teaching and research labs to include real-life application exercises for our students. I focus on helping my students gain mastery through more practical work and offer more opportunities for the application of knowledge. I have worked alongside my students to launch projects within Ho Chi Minh City that revolve around research on propagation models to assess the status of air pollution due to pollutants from vehicles and industrial processes, with the goal of applying this technology to the city's pollution management. Currently we are studying the potential of using solar energy in heat-absorption and electricity-generation systems to provide electricity and water heating for residential areas in the city.

THANK YOU!

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