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PRESS RELEASE

VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION SENDS FELLOWS AND VISITING SCHOLARS TO ATTEND TOP U.S. UNIVERSITIES

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Ha Noi, May 25, 2009 – The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to introduce its new 2009 cohort of Fellows and Visiting Scholars. In the fall of 2009, thirty nine (39) new Fellows will travel to the United States to begin graduate studies and seven (7) new Visiting Scholars will undertake professional development programs at twenty eight (28) top U.S. universities and institutions during the upcoming academic year 2009 – 2010.

The 39 new VEF Fellows will be pursuing graduate degrees at top U.S. universities (see list below) in various fields of science and technology, including the following: agricultural sciences; biology; chemistry; computer science; earth, ocean, and atmospheric sciences; engineering (including biomedical, chemical, civil, computer, electrical, environmental, and mechanical engineering); epidemiology; mathematics; physics; plant pathology; public health; robotics; and statistics. With this new cohort, VEF will have placed a total of 306 Fellows at 69 leading U.S. universities as of fall 2009.

In addition to this new group of Fellows, the third cohort of Visiting Scholars will pursue self-designed post-doctoral training programs at leading U.S. universities for up to 12 months, focusing on various fields in science and technology, including the following: biology; engineering (including agricultural, biological, and electrical engineering); geography and geology; materials science; mathematics; and plant physiology. With this new cohort, VEF will have awarded grants to 26 Visiting Scholars.

Dr. Lynne A. McNamara, VEF Acting Executive Director, commented, “We are extremely pleased with this outstanding 2009 cohort of 39 Fellows and 7 Visiting Scholars to join the ever-growing VEF network of U.S.-educated scientists and engineers for Vietnam. The 2009 cohort succeeded in receiving the VEF Fellowships and Visiting Scholar Grants through a highly competitive selection process, organized by VEF with the assistance of the U.S. National Academies and based on the candidates' intellectual and academic merit. Congratulations to the new

Fellows and Visiting Scholars and to their families, who have helped them reach this point in achieving their dreams!

To prepare the new Fellows and Visiting Scholars for their transition to the United States, VEF provides a comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) to be held from June 4 – 9, 2009, in

Vietnam. The extensive PDO includes a 2-day Team Building program at Tuyen Lam, Da Lat City, followed by two days of lectures and presentations in Ho Chi Minh City, addressing immigration and visa matters, health issues, travel requirements, cultural adaptation, academic expectations, and other significant information.

VEF will hold a Press Conference to announce this important event on **June 8, 2009 (16:00 – 17:15)** at the **Indochine Ballroom, Level 1, at the New World Hotel Sai Gon, 76 Le Lai Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City**. The Press Conference will give the audience an opportunity to further understand the VEF Fellowship and Visiting Scholar selection process and how VEF supports its applicants from the initial stages through completion of one's academic program in the United States.

For more information, please visit the VEF website at: www.vef.gov

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U.S. UNIVERSITIES HOSTING 2009 VEF FELLOWS AND VISITING SCHOLARS

- 1 Case Western Reserve University
- 2 Clemson University
- 3 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
- 4 Cornell University
- 5 Florida State University
- 6 Georgia Institute of Technology
- 7 Hoffman Environmental Research Institute
- 8 Iowa State University
- 9 Johns Hopkins University
- 10 Michigan State University
- 11 Oklahoma State University
- 12 Pennsylvania State University
- 13 Purdue University
- 14 Rice University
- 15 University of California, Berkeley
- 16 University of California, Davis
- 17 University of California, Los Angeles
- 18 University of California, San Diego
- 19 University of Connecticut
- 20 University of Florida
- 21 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 22 University of Michigan
- 23 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 24 University of Pennsylvania
- 25 University of Texas at Austin
- 26 University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- 27 University of Utah
- 28 University of Washington