



PRESS RELEASE

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VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION SPONSORS U.S. FACULTY SCHOLARS TO TEACH IN VIETNAM

Hanoi, Vietnam, and Washington, D.C., July 19, 2010 – The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce the selection of the third group of American professors to teach at Vietnamese universities during the 2010-2011 Academic Year as part of its U.S. Faculty Scholar (USFS) Grant Program.

The USFS Grant Program contributes to the VEF mission of bringing the United States and Vietnam closer together through educational exchanges related to science, engineering, mathematics, medicine, and technology. U.S. Faculty Scholars teach in English at Vietnamese universities in their fields of expertise. Teaching may be conducted either on-site in Vietnam or by interactive, real-time videoconferencing from the United States. VEF serves as the sponsor and organizer while the Vietnamese universities serve as the hosts and the U.S. universities cooperate in the collaborative programs. The U.S. National Academies assists VEF in the selection of Faculty Scholars.

Michael W. Michalak, the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam said: “The VEF U.S. Faculty Scholar Program is an outstanding U.S. government funded program, which reflects one of our Mission’s top priorities of enhancing American cooperation with Vietnam in the area of education. I believe it will also serve to support Vietnam’s efforts to further reform and develop its higher education system.”

VEF has provided grants to seven U.S. Faculty Scholars since 2008. Now, VEF is pleased to support five more American professors, each of whom will lead different teaching projects in Vietnam this year under the USFS Program.

Dr. Quyen D. Chu, M.D., F.A.C.S., Associate Professor, at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-Shreveport, will be teaching from the United States using video-conferencing to Thai Binh Medical University in Thai Binh during the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 academic terms. Dr. Chu’s field of expertise is surgery and he will be teaching a course entitled *Multidisciplinary Approach in Managing Breast Cancer*. This will be Dr. Chu’s second award from VEF as a U.S. Faculty Scholar teaching in Vietnam. Dr. Chu commented, “In Vietnam, breast cancer is the most common cancer in women. Thai-Binh is a relatively large city with approximately 1.8 million residents. What we want to do is to assist TBMU in starting a breast cancer program.”

Dr. Timothy J. Craig, Professor, at Pennsylvania State University, will be teaching on site at the National Lung Hospital in Hanoi during the academic year 2010-2011. Dr. Craig's field of expertise is medicine, allergy, asthma, and immunology and he will be teaching a course entitled *Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Program*. Dr. Craig established the Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Training Program at Pennsylvania State University and is presently the program Director. During his teaching program in Vietnam he will collaborate with Dr. Nguyen Viet Nhung, MD, PhD, to establish the first Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Training Program in Vietnam. He has been an advisor for at least forty-five students and his students have won multiple awards for innovative research.

Dr. James F. Cremer, Professor and Chair of the Computer Science Department, at the University of Iowa, will be teaching on site at the Hanoi University of Technology in Hanoi during the Spring term 2011. Dr. Cremer's field of expertise is computer science and he will be teaching a course entitled *Data Structures and Algorithms*. His research interests include virtual environments (VE), real-time graphics and animation, scenario authoring, terrain rendering, and multibody dynamics simulation and is co-leader of the Hank VE lab working on virtual environments. He has visited Vietnam five times as a Vietnam Education Foundation Fellowship interviewer.

Dr. Erik V. Nordheim, Professor, at the University of Wisconsin in the Department of Statistics, will be teaching from the United States using video-conferencing to teach at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Science for the Fall 2010 term. Dr. Nordheim's field of specialty is applied statistics and he will be teaching a course entitled *Introductory Applied Statistics (with emphasis on applications to biology)*. The mode of teaching will be a hybrid with face-to-face instruction followed by video-conferencing. He has previously taught a two week short course on statistics in Ho Chi Minh City and given lectures in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. Dr. Nordheim has been a professor at the National University of Singapore and spent five years on an interdisciplinary research project in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Mexico.

Dr. Sally Carol Seidel, Professor, at the University of New Mexico, will be teaching at the Institute of Physics at the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) for the Spring term 2011, both on - site and via video conference from the United States. Dr. Seidel's field of expertise is physics and she will be teaching two courses entitled *Quantum Mechanics and Particle Physics*. These courses will explore the basis for potential discoveries at the newly commissioned Large Hadron Collider (CERN Laboratory, Geneva, Switzerland) where her research is based. She has previously held a Fulbright Senior Scholar appointment at Lund University in Lund, Sweden and a Visiting Professorship at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Vice Minister of Science and Technology (MOST), Dr. Le Dinh Tien, said: "The U.S. Faculty Scholar Program is an excellent initiative of VEF and will have significant effects. MOST greatly appreciates VEF's efforts in continuing to contribute to the development of science and technology in Vietnam."

The Director General of the Vietnam International Education Development, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Vang of the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), said: "MOET fully supports the U.S. Faculty Scholar (USFS) Program initiated by VEF. We are pleased that the third group of five American professors has been selected under the USFS Program of Cohort 2010. The USFS Program has supported a number of Vietnamese universities in their efforts to establish advanced programs and sustainable collaboration between U.S. and Vietnamese universities."

Dr. Lynne McNamara, VEF Executive Director, stated: “An excellent example of American and Vietnamese university collaboration, the U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant Program is a significant initiative of VEF, bringing outstanding American experts to teach at Vietnamese universities. Without a doubt, the USFS Grant Program will have a lasting impact on higher education in Vietnam.”

An initiative of the U.S. Congress, the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF), a U.S. federal government agency, is in its eighth year of operations. Among its programs, the VEF Fellowship Program has placed 342 Fellows since 2003 at 76 top U.S. graduate research institutions, mostly for doctoral degrees. In addition, since 2007 the VEF Visiting Scholar Program has provided opportunities for 29 Vietnamese to pursue post-doctoral programs at U.S. universities for up to 12 months. VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars are required to return to Vietnam after completing their academic programs in the United States.

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