

CYCLO EXPRESS



News for UNSW Vietnam alumni

Issue 7: July 2009



LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

HCMC

The UNSW HCMC Office has been working closely with some of the leading high schools in the city, including Le Hong Phong, Tran Dai Nghia and Nguyen Thi Minh Khai. We want more HCMC students to know about UNSW and the benefits of obtaining a UNSW degree. We are currently working with two schools on a scholarship program recognising outstanding academic performance of Year 12 students. Two successful students will be awarded a full fee scholarship for the UNSW Foundation Studies Transition program – a one semester program commencing in October each year and allowing students to commence their undergraduate degree at UNSW in the following February. If you would like more information on the Transition program please contact the HCMC Office or access the UNSW Foundation Studies website at: www.ufs.unsw.edu.au

NEWSFLASH: The first UNSW Global Foundation Studies Scholarship for Vietnam has been awarded to Ms Nguyen Thai An who has just completed year 12 at Tran Dai Nghia school in HCMC with excellent results. An has also been awarded an additional UNSW Global scholarship to cover a 5 week English program at the UNSW Institute of Languages before she commences her Foundation Studies course. An will go on to study Software Engineering at UNSW on successful completion of Foundation Studies. The scholarship will be officially presented at the Tran Dai Nghia new school year commencement day in September.

ALSO: The first VNU-HCM-International University student to be accepted to study at UNSW under the "2+2" Articulation Agreement with the UNSW Faculty of Engineering is Ms. Nguyen Thanh Van. Van has just completed second year at VNU-HCM-IU and will go into the third year of a Computer Science degree at UNSW.

Warmest congratulations to both these students on their achievements!

Time flies when you're busy – that's certainly been the case with me. So much so that I've let 6 months go by without an issue of Cyclo Express, leaving me with rather a lot to report in this issue which runs to three pages.

The HCMC Representative Office has been working flat out to establish itself and raise the profile of UNSW in the business capital of the country. At the same time, the Hanoi office continues to consolidate its position in the education and research sectors in the capital.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our activities over the past 6 months. Remember to contact us with news or information you think might be of interest to other Vietnam alumni.

Don Evans *Regional Manager*



New Facebook group for UNSW alumni

facebook



You may know that Ms Tran Thanh Van in our Hanoi office is a UNSW alumna. Van has taken the initiative of starting a Facebook group for UNSW Vietnam alumni. The group already has a lot of members and should be very popular as a means of keeping in touch and sharing information about life after UNSW, especially among younger alumni. Have a look and contribute if you wish. To join, please send an invitation to: unswvietnam@yahoo.com.au



Ms Nguyen Thai An

Hanoi

UNSW has two exciting projects on in Hanoi. The UNSW partner for both is the School of Public Health and Community Medicine of the UNSW Faculty of Medicine.

The long planned National Workshop and International Conference entitled "Realising the Rights to Health and Development for All" will take place this year. This project is co-organised by the UNSW Initiative for Health and Human Rights (IHHR) and the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Commission for Popularization and Education. Major donors supporting the project are The Atlantic Philanthropies, AusAID, the United Nations OneUN, The Open Society Institute and USAID. The International Conference will be held in Hanoi on 26-29 October. Those interested in more information or wishing to register an Expression of Interest in attending the conference can contact the UNSW Hanoi Office or access the conference website at: www.healthandrights.com

IHHR also runs yearly intensive courses on Health, Development and Human Rights in Sydney. For more information see: www.ihhr.unsw.edu.au/initiative/courses.html

The second big activity in Hanoi is a three year project funded by AusAID involving UNSW and the Health Strategy Policy Institute of the Ministry of Health (HSPI). The project provides collaboration in research, information exchange and capacity building in the area of evidence based policy development.



MEMOIRS OF AN ALUMNUS

LETUTHANH studied Computer Engineering at UNSW under an AusAID scholarship, graduating in 2006. On returning to Vietnam, he worked for IBM for 1 year and then opened his own company. The company, ITFS, specialises in software and web design. In 2009, ITFS developed ibox.fm, the first ever microblog in Vietnam.

A time to remember

I arrived at Sydney airport on a summer day. No one picked us up. I took a taxi to the apartment near UNSW. It was during the summer holiday, and nobody was on the street, UNSW was quieter than what I expected. But when a new semester began, I saw exactly what UNSW is.

In my mind UNSW is, ... the hills I climbed up and down every day. The campus is large, and takes 10-15 minutes to walk from one end to another end. During the break, the main walk is full of students rushing to next classes. Walking around the uni every day made me perfectly fit.

In my mind UNSW is, ... the uni library, one of the biggest libraries I've ever seen in my life with all kinds of books. We spent much time here, searching for course materials. Time went really fast in a semester, assignments, reports, homework and examinations. When a semester ended, we used to organise an event to celebrate it.

In my mind UNSW is, ... the CSE computer labs, where I stayed up late to do assignments. We used to work in groups here, and some times paused for a break by having a cup of coffee under the trees in the John Lions garden or lying on the red sofas in the CSE aisles. I still remember how happy I was, when I finished a challenging assignment.

In my mind UNSW is, ... my professors and my friends, who I adore both for their talents and personalities. Not only the knowledge I

have learned from them, but learning how to get knowledge as well. Learning does not end when you leave the uni, it is just a beginning of a new and much larger study. You cannot get all knowledge at the same time. But once you know how to get it, you will be able to achieve that.

In my mind UNSW is, ... the Vietnamese Dynamic Students (VDS) association. Together we organised many events such as the student gala where our students showcased their talents; the Easter Sport, a sports event for all Vietnamese students in Sydney. The first ever Vietnamese Culture Night was held at UNSW and then held at different universities in Sydney. It was an event to introduce Vietnam images to local and international students.

It's been 3 years since I returned to Vietnam. In my mind, UNSW is definitely the place I will return to.



CAMPUS NEWS

UNSW celebrates 60 years of extraordinary achievement

A word on the 60th anniversary celebrations from the Vice Chancellor, Professor Fred Hilmer

This year our University celebrates its 60th anniversary. Not a long history compared to such august institutions as Oxford or Cambridge, or even some of our "sandstones" here in Australia. But a rich history and one I think that, by its very brevity, can lay claim to extraordinary achievement: we are one of the very few institutions of our age to be ranked among the top

60 YEARS of extraordinary achievement

50 in the world.

The journey from the University's incorporation in 1949, as the New South Wales University of Technology, has been remarkable. As Patrick O'Farrell noted in his colourful history of the first 50 years, (UNSW A Portrait, UNSW Press), this is a story of collective achievement – from leaders such as our first Vice-Chancellor, the visionary Sir Phillip Baxter, to the thousands of hard working and determined people who have contributed to what might have seemed, in 1949 at least, an impossible dream.

The brash, unorthodox newcomer, starting from nothing just six decades ago, has grown into one of Australia's premier universities - with 40,000 students, a 5,000

strong staff and a reputation for world-class research and teaching excellence.

In the words of our longest serving Chancellor, the late Gordon Samuels, this transformation was achieved "very much under the ordinary time for the course... (UNSW) was the epitome of the hungry fighter seeking success and recognition".

It is a history to be proud of – and while we are not planning lavish celebrations, we will be taking opportunities throughout the year to mark this important milestone. There will be a special anniversary lift out in the next issue of Uniken, while our alumni magazine, UNSWorld, will mark the occasion by featuring 60 of our outstanding alumni. We are also planning a special graduation event to be held in Beijing in October, to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Professor Fred Hilmer Vice-Chancellor

DIARY DATE: To celebrate our 60th anniversary, UNSW will host a program of activities for alumni and friends in Beijing on 16-18 October. Activities will include a Global Leaders Lecture, a Graduation celebration, a Gala dinner and cultural events. More details on www.alumni.unsw.edu.au

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OUR STAFF - Just so you know all our Vietnam staff – here they are!



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And in other news:

Advice on face masks to combat flu

Face masks are a cheap, effective public health “front-line” against epidemics such as swine flu, especially when vaccines are unavailable or in short supply, UNSW infectious disease expert Professor Raina MacIntyre says.

Professor MacIntyre, who sits on a national panel advising on influenza and emerging infectious diseases, led national commentary by a number of UNSW experts on the latest influenza outbreak, which threatens to become a pandemic.

If a pandemic occurred, face masks would become an important protective measure until a vaccination was developed, Professor MacIntyre, from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, said.



Professor Raina MacIntyre *Head, School of Public Health and Community Medicine*

PROGRAM CHANGES/ COURSES OF INTEREST

New programs this year include:

- ▶ **Bachelor of Media** – three streams: Screen and Sound, Journalism and Communication and Media Production
- ▶ **Master of Commerce in Supply Chain and Logistics**
- ▶ **Master of Journalism and Communication**

You might like to have a look at the Master of Business and Technology (MBT) which can be completed entirely on-line. This means you can get another UNSW degree while you continue to work. Go to: www.asb.unsw.au/mbt

SWINE FLU More swine
ATTACKING flu deaths
MOTHERS expected
A surge in
swine flu cases
Swine flu victims
on life support

A final note

Don't forget to look at the UNSW TV channel if you want to keep up with all that's happening at UNSW. www.youtube.com/unsw

And remember the UNSW Alumni website where you can update your contact details on the main alumni database: www.alumni.unsw.edu.au

And finally – activate your life-long UNSW alumni e-mail address:

www.unsw.edu.au/alumni/pad/alumniactivation.html

Alumni in both Hanoi and HCMC are encouraged to contact the offices (see “Contact Us”) with suggestions for alumni activities. At present we try to organise one formal annual event in each city but are open to suggestions for less formal get-togethers throughout the year. Please also send any suggestions or thoughts you might have for possible UNSW activities in Vietnam.

Thanks for your input!

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