

Sat, 03/12/2011

Our voice - our reflection



The FFI Journal

English magazine of Faculty of Foreign Languages of HCMC Open University

**WISE Summit
2011: We are
Learners' Voice**

**Vote for
Ha Long
Bay via
NOW**

**“Words of
Gratitude”
19/11/2011**

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Your blood is more valuable than mine

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COFFEE TALK

WORTH IT?

That's a question you hear a lot. "Was it worth it?"

Not certain what either "it" refers to, but generally we're saying, "Was the destination worth the journey? Was the effort worth the reward?" The thing about effort is that effort is its own reward if you allow it to be.

So the answer can always be "yes" if you let it.

SETH GODIN

*Theme of upcoming FFL Journal issue:**- Volume 3 (Feb. 2012): Love*

Don't hesitate to send your writings about those themes to theffljournal@gmail.com.

WORD AND STORY

TEDDY BEAR

Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, is the person responsible for giving the teddy bear his name. On November 14, 1902, Roosevelt was helping settle a border dispute between Mississippi and Louisiana. During his spare time he attended a bear hunt in Mississippi. During the hunt, Roosevelt refused killing a wounded young bear.

The Washington Post ran an editorial cartoon that illustrated the event. The cartoon was called "Drawing the Line in Mississippi". A shopkeeper, Morris Michtom, saw the drawing and was inspired to create a little stuffed bear and showed it in his shop window with a sign that read "Teddy's bear", after asking for permission from President Theodore Roosevelt. Now toy bears are often called teddy bears! ■

BÙI THỊ PHƯƠNG



Source: santabanta.com

Models of cover: Trần Lê Hồng Phương (AV08B1) - Âu Tuyền Diệu (HV06B1)

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WARM CANDLES OF LIFE

*A good teacher is like a candle
- it consumes itself
to light the way for the others.
(Author Unknown)*

When I was a young girl, like others, my mind was as pure as the sky after a heavy rain and I had many beautiful and childish dreams. One of the most beautiful dreams was being a teacher in the future. In my childish mind, becoming a teacher means wearing "ao dai" everyday at school and all of the children in my class look admiringly and timorously at me; therefore, teaching is the most august job in the world.

When I grew up a little, I started to pay more attention to the world around me. My parents were teachers. Each year many old students dropped in my house to visit my parents with flowers and gifts on Vietnamese Teacher's Day. I did not know about the meaning of those flowers and gifts that they brought. However, I was sure that they were full of thankfulness and respectfulness. Especially, I realized happiness deep in my parents' eyes. Since then I wondered, "Is there any occupation that has an invisible and close string between the previous generations and the following generations like the occupation of teacher?" Not until have I studied to become a real teacher can I understand the profound meaning of what I've been studying. Teaching is the noblest occupation.

Being a teacher is the same as being a useful person with society. Teachers help the students not only comprehend the endless resource of humanity's knowledge, but also establish necessary skills to apply what they've learned to real life. Therefore, teaching is an occupation that is very necessary to the whole society. Without education, surely one society cannot be developed or even go backward the civilization of the humanity. Besides, teachers are good examples for students to follow. They always take their students towards the kindness and the beauty of life. Therefore, they make their productions – the things that cannot be seen by eyes and different from any other productions. Their production is the perfect personality and the lofty and beautiful of people's soul.

The truth is teachers are successful people both in society and innermost feelings. At school, they are the parents of many students. All of students listen and obey to the teachers. My mother once told me that she was walking to school and one young man driving motorbike came and offered a help. Surely my mother could not know who he was. Surprisingly, he said he was one my mother's students several years ago. When one person wants to become a teacher, he has to perfect himself first to be confident to stand in front of students and take one generation. He also learns from the students the way to live with younger to understand their children. According to Ms. Ho Huong, by becoming a teacher she could answer the question of how useful she was with society, and where she was living.

Becoming a teacher, one has an opportunity to give back the whole society what s/he received with deep gratitude. Mr. To Huu, a famous Vietnamese poet, wrote that living was giving, not only receiving for oneself. Truth is what or who we are today is not up to ourselves. We are the results of many people: parents, teachers and other people.

Teaching is truly a hard occupation. However, I think if we have enough love, enough enthusiasm, surely we can inspire and share our passion to children. On the occasion of Vietnamese Teacher's Day, I would like to send a message like my special thanks to all my teachers and my parents that I never forget what they have done for me, and I will try my best to become a good teacher like them to make this life more beautiful. ■

HÀ NHẬT LINH

QUOTATIONS OF THE MONTH

“Education is the art of making man ethical.”
GEORGE HEGEL, Philosophy of Rights, 1821

“Education is not about imposing knowledge but rather about providing the means to question and to develop the critical abilities of citizens.”

GEORGE HADDAD - Director of Education Research and Foresight (ED/ERF), Education Sector, UNESCO



Source: howto-home-improvement.blogspot.com.jpg

YOUR BLOOD IS MORE VALUABLE THAN MINE

Your blood is more valuable than mine.

These are words of the Rector of Hogwarts Albus Dumbledore in the 6th book in the well-known Harry Potter series with the title "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." The old sorcerer Dumbledore cuts his hand and takes his blood to open the way in order to defend Harry's bloodline.

Then, when having to drink the potion to take the Horcrux, Dumbledore also appropriates the right to do it, which means he accepts the danger for himself. Replying to Harry's question, "Why can't I drink the potion instead?" he states, "Because I'm much older, much clever and much less valuable."



Source: <http://www.aceshowbiz.com>

When saying that his blood is not as valuable as Harry's, that he himself is not as treasured as Harry is, does the greatest wizard of all time speak lowly of himself? Not at all, on the contrary, he is speaking highly of him as he not only realizes Harry's potential but also conserves them.

Besides, when Dumbledore supposes Harry is more valuable than he is, does Harry become arrogant? No. The reason is that if the master comprehends his student's values, the student, therefore, also appreciates his master's value and the merit of "understanding": when you assess the other people's values and capability, it means that you do assess your values and capacity also.

Through this example, we can realize the spirit of masters and students in the Western conception are based on the formula: not only do masters give lessons to their students but also apprehend and appreciate their values. If need, masters can completely admit their students' excellence to help them conceive of their role and competences. ■

Written by Ph.D. NGUYỄN THỊ TỪ HUY - lecturer of HCMC. University of Social Sciences and Humanities

Extracted and translated by QUÁCH MINH MINH

POCKET ADDRESS LIST

1. Book café Phuong Nam

Address: 3 Nguyen Oanh str., Go Vap district, HCMC.

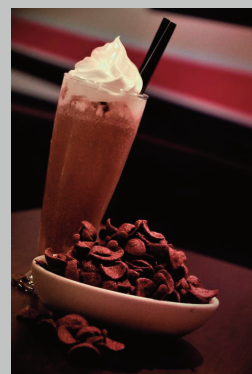
Book café Phuong Nam usually holds exchange activities and performances that introduce authors and their works, or display pictures of prestigious authors and artists. Coming to book café Phuong Nam, you can find and consult interesting books for yourself. You can also relax in a gentle, elegant space with updated books and free wifi here.



2. Enjoy Italian Coffee at Comix café

Address: 3 Nguyen Oanh str., Go Vap district, HCMC.

Coming to Comix café, you will have a chance to sip Italian ground coffee, a stylish drink with high-quality materials, in a modern and cool space. You can also enjoy PapaRoti, which is baked in place. Prices range from 20,000VND to 30,000VND



3. <http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/jtw/>

This address gathers some short-term programs at Kyushu University, Japan. Those who are interested in study in Japan should check it regularly.

4. <http://www.futureme.org>

"Congrats! You are now a graduate from FFL, Open University. I don't know what you will be at the ceremony but it's great anyway. Love. Signed: Myself"

How do you feel when one day, you wake up, check email and receive an email sent by YOU long time ago, 6 months, 1 year, or even 5 years ago? Let's try this amazing website, try writing for you at some moment in the future, you can be surprised at the time. ■

NGUYỄN QUỐC VŨ

P/S: If you guys have any interesting destination for students (café, bookstore, foodstore...) or websites, 4rums, feel free to introduce to us by sending via email: theffljournal@gmail.com. Don't forget to leave your name and phone number. Thank you. ^.^

OU SPOTLIGHTS Highlighted

"WORDS OF GRATITUDE": FEELINGS FROM THE HEART

On November 19th at Dao Duy Anh Campus, a meaningful moved program named "WORDS OF GRATITUDE" took place with the participation of many teachers of FFL and students as well.

This was a precious opportunity for us – students – to feel, to ponder, to say thank to what people have offered us. The students from many classes - English, Chinese, and Japanese - wrote letters saying what they think and what they want to say to their teachers. Here are some of them:

Letter from Tôn Nữ Tường Vy (AV08A2) to Ms. Nguyễn Vũ Phương Thảo

"You are the very first one to show me that the relationship between teachers and students at college is not cursory as people may assume. The stories you told, the cakes and the candies you gave us, and the strict teaching you did are all the fine pure things to build this belief. My dear teacher, your hair is turning grey, your eyes seem like more tired, though you always try to keep a smile on your face in front us. Please take care of your health!"

Letter from Quách Thanh Phương (AV08A2) to Mr. Trần Thiên Sơn

"Life may flow as a tide, maybe fast, maybe slowly, but the only thing which time cannot change is the warmth and tender you give us. Thank you, my teacher! I wish you a beautiful Teacher's Day!"



Spanish song (Source: Quách Thanh Phương)

Letter from Trường Duy (HV11) to his teachers.

"It's almost a month since I made the first step at the threshold of this college to become a freshman. It was not so long but enough for me to know and feel the warm care my teachers give us, the newcomers. I have nothing to say but wish you good lucks and happiness! Goodbye, my teachers and see you again in classes".

Those are just 3 of many messages which are full of love, affection, and care toward our teachers in this special occasion. All are so valuable contribution to the relationship between students and teachers in our friendly university.

Along with the words for the teachers, our students sang so many songs for their "great friends and intimate instructors also". They are the songs coming from the bottom of their hearts. Then all the participants had a chance to enjoy their teachers' beautiful voices with "Bức họa đồng quê" by Ms. Nguyễn Thị Hoài Minh, "Boulevard" by Mr. Lê Quang Trức and Ms. Nguyễn Vũ Phương Thảo, "Ngày em đến" by Mr. Trần Thiên Sơn, "Besame mucho and Guantanamera" by Ms. Lara and Mr. Hugo – our native Spanish teachers and the students of the Spanish club. Our teachers were really enthusiastic and more outgoing than we thought!



Mr. Truc and Ms. Phuong Thao with "Boulevard" (Source: Tường Vy)

"Thank the Youth Union of the FFL for celebrating an unforgettable evening. "Words of Gratitude" is a gift we dedicate to our respectful teachers and beloved students as well, especially such a senior like me. What a pity for those who did not attend this event. Teachers of our faculty are strict on the lecture-rooms, but they are talented artists on the stage. I love our teachers, love FFL. I wish our teachers good health to pursue their noble career", said Quỳnh Chiêu (AV08B2).

We do hope that we students can express our thoughts and affection to our teachers more, not just on the occasions of Teachers' Day or Tet Holidays. Your expressions will be our teachers' happiness and motivation to pursue their career and to keep beautiful memories in their life. ■

CHU THỊ NHƯ TRANG



Support our teachers! (Source: Thanh Phương)

THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR HA LONG BAY VIA NEW OPEN WORLD



Source: <http://profile.ak.fbcdn.net>

On 12/11/2011, the fact that Halong Bay, one popular tourist destination of Vietnam, became one of the new seven natural wonders of the world through voting drew the attention of the whole society.

1. Đỗ Nguyễn Minh Hiếu - AV08B1

I think the election for Ha Long Bay is appropriate. On 11/11, my room-mates did support for the campaign happily by sending SMS messages. If we win in this competition, the name of Vietnam will be spread to the world, more tourists know about it, visit it, and that may push up the tourism of Quang Ninh province, benefit the Vietnamese economy.

2. Bùi Thị Phương - AV09A2

Because I am Vietnamese, like many people, I did send messages to vote for Ha Long Bay and hope that it will be selected someday. However, I dislike the way they considered the number of emails and SMS messages voted by citizens as a criterion to assess a wonder. Undoubtedly, voting via Email and SMS is wasting too much time and too much money and frankly, is not objective at all. A person who wants to show his patriotism can stay all day at home just to send millions of SMS messages, and so do the others. Then their country is awarded thanks to those SMS messages. Apparently, it is not a convincing win or even it may cause a high controversy among the countries.

3. Lê Công Thịnh, AV09A1

Ha Long Bay has become one of seven natural wonders of the world. I'm a Vietnamese citizen and I sent one SMS to vote for it. Is it, however, really "express their being patriotic" as Ms Tra Giang said? Or it is a race when our citizens try to send as many SMS messages as possible? Although this competition was introduced by high-level officials of the world and they may think about this problem, it still makes me confused.



source: <http://www.travelweekly.asia>

However, we have no idea whether other countries have done such a thing like us or not, because everyone want their natural wonder to be on top of the world.

4. Trần Nguyệt Minh - AV10A1

The election campaign for Ha Long Bay has just ended. However, the way it is conducted is still unsatisfactory. In my opinion, Vietnamese should have been disseminated carefully, clearly and popularly about the meaning of the vote before it took place. In other words, the organization must help them aware that the vote is a good opportunity for them to show their pride of cultural heritage of their country.

5. Chu Thị Như Trang, AV10A1

There are many places which have come to prominence thanks to media and its own beauty. Ha Long Bay is naturally beautiful, but some areas there are not very clean, due to the affluence of tourism and the living activity of habitants around there. I don't mean voting makes no effect; however, personally, I think we'd better raise people's awareness about keeping its beauty and give out more practical solutions for the problem above before trying to grab that title.

6. Tôn Nữ Tường Vy - AV08A2

A competition must have a fair crack for all the competitors. An organization uses sacred values of nations to rank based on the overwhelming majority only will be detrimental. In terms of international relations, this will disadvantage countries having small population, undeveloped media and technology system.

Perhaps, the aim of NOW (New Open World) is to explore potential natural wonders for human beings, also to remind them the responsibility to protect the natural beauty of the Earth. We, Vietnamese, should have a contribution to bring out our natural beauty to the world; however, how to maintain this beauty is indeed our most practical act to our fatherland. ■

HÀ NHẬT LINH

MAJESTIC HA LONG BAY



Source: <http://qnmtravel.com>

Situated in the North-East region of Vietnam, Ha Long Bay is a bay in the Gulf of Tonkin comprised of regions of Ha Long City, the township of Cam Pha, and a part of the island district of Van Don. Ha Long Bay borders Cat Ba Island in the Southwest, the East Sea in the East, and the mainland, creating a 120 km coastline.

Ha Long Bay is made up of 1,969 islands of various sizes, 989 of which have been given names. There are two kinds of islands, limestone and schist, which are concentrated in two main zones: the Southeast (belonging to Bai Tu Long Bay), and the Southwest (belonging to Ha Long Bay). This densely concentrated zone of stone islands, world famous for its spectacular scenery of grottoes and caves, forms the central zone of Ha Long Bay, which has been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The bay itself has an area of 43,400 hectares, consists of 775 islands, and forms a triangle with the island of Dau Go (Driftwood Grotto) to the West, the lake of Ba Ham (Three Shelter Lake) to the South, and the island of Cong Tay to the East.

Viewed from above, Ha Long Bay resembles a geographic work of art. While exploring the bay, you feel lost in a legendary world of stone islands. There is Man's Head Island, which resembles a man standing and looking towards the mainland. Dragon Island looks like a dragon hovering above the turquoise water. La Vong Island resembles an old man fishing. There are also the islands of the Sail, the Pair of Roosters, and the Incense Burner, which all astonishingly resemble their namesakes.

The forms of the islands change depending on the angle of the light and from where the islands are viewed. At the core of the islands, there are wonderful caves and grottoes, such as Thien Cung (Heavenly Residence Grotto), Dau Go (Driftwood Grotto), Sung Sot (Surprise Grotto), and Tam Cung (Three Palace Grotto).

Ha Long Bay has many links to the history of Vietnam. For example, there are such famous geographical sites as Van Don (site of an ancient commercial port), Poem Mountain (with engravings of many poems about emperors and other famous historical figures), and Bach Dang River (the location of two fierce naval battles fought against foreign aggressors).

It has been proven by scientists that Ha Long was one of the first cradles of human existence in the area at such archeological sites as Dong Mang, Xich Tho, Soi Nhu, and Thoi Gieng. It is also a region of highly-concentrated biological diversity with many ecosystems of salt water-flooded forests, coral reefs, and tropical forests featuring thousands of species of animal and plant life.

With all this in mind, the 18th meeting of the Committee of the World Heritages of UNESCO (in Thailand on December 17th, 1994), officially recognized Ha Long Bay as a natural heritage site of worldwide importance. ■

CHU THỊ NHƯ TRANG

(Source: vietnamtourism.com)



Source: <http://4.bp.blogspot.com>

Tôn Nữ Tường Vy - student of AV08A2 and the Editorial Manager of The FFL Journal - has come back from the World Innovation Summit for Education, took place in Doha (Qatar), from 30/10 to 03/11/2011. Let's read her sharing.

Wise2011:

world innovation summit for education
مؤتمر القمة العالم للتعليم والابتكار

WE ARE LEARNERS' VOICE

1. Prepare, prepare!

Receiving the acceptance letter at the mid-night of September 16, I could not believe in what I was reading. I was selected among thousands of application forms all over the world. 1,200 delegates from many sectors would attend the Summit, but there will be only 30 delegates who are students, forming the "Learners' Voice" team. After calming down, I started my preparation.



Ms. Vy in Ao dai and international friends (Source: Michael Andrew)

Connect to other students. I sent them emails and facebook messages. We discussed our schooling, interests, family, education and culture. It was an effective way to form my closest friendships in the team.

List down all things I need for the trip. Apart from necessary stuff and contacts, two important things were to read many documents about educational innovation and to collect ideas as well as opinions from many students, teachers and scholars.

Furthermore, *traditional cultural souvenir* is also a strategic idea. I wrote emails to some tourist associations and went to some markets and shops to ask for sponsor, and they went well.

Set my goals for the Summit: sharing ideas and opinions, getting inspiration, and building new network with delegates relevant to my core interests, which are translation and media.

"You win not by chance, but by preparation" (Roger Maris). Until I had perfect ticks, I smiled and knew that: I was ready for the journey.

2. Work at a new pace

As a member of the Learners' Voice Program, I conducted 6 tasks apart from attending sessions.

- Making an imaginary team project based on an available budget

With the budget of 1 billion USD, 5 students and I had only 10 minutes to brainstorm the whole project about education innovation at the macro scale, to assign presenter for each part and to design the slideshow. Only within 10 minutes!

After all, we had amazing group presentations with many different impressions: particular, extensiveness, humorousness, practicality, etc. I have learnt, first and foremost, that when we worked under the harsh pressure of time, we must be extremely concentrated and everything went well in the end.

- Making a 30-second speech about individual project

Thirty seconds! We were all anxious. We discussed many times with our mentors, did mock presentations for each other repeatedly, gave feedbacks and utilized every chance we had to rehearse, including and especially in the... toilet. That was the team spirit.

Under the stage light and in front of the media, we took turn to present our ideas. When it came "Vy Nu Tuong Ton, Ho Chi Minh City Open University, Vietnam, Translation", I walked to the stage with a strange feeling about my responsibility to those words on the screen. My project is about a translation team, starting from translating articles and tending to college textbooks based on the demand for the quality and updated textbooks of each school. If there were one thing I learnt from preparing for this task, it's about dealing with stress. Those days I was too busy to have time to think about the stress, simply.



Interview Ms Claudie Haigneré (Source: Tường Vy)

- Training for video interview

3 students and I interviewed Ms. Claudie Haigneré (French), President of Universcience. She is of versatile talent: being a doctor, a politician, a professor, and the only female in the European Astronaut Corps. *"Life will provide you all the choices, all the opportunities, so don't hesitate to open the door. Push the door to see what can be another pathway"*, she said.

- Blogging

We posted writings / videos / photos on the blog of Learners' Voice. It was comfortable to express our thoughts relevant to education and to store our fruitful tasks done as an open source.

- Leading workshops

I and other 2 peers discussed the content of the educational materials delivered to students under the classical educational system under the theme "What We Learn Matters". It was one of the most challenging intellectual confrontations we have ever had. Attendees were hardcore debaters. They put us in an uncomfortable corner many times with their deep questioning. The lesson is to think of a problem deeper before jumping into thinking of a solution. For knowing the problem well is more than half way to the solution.

- Presenting a live Focus Session

On the last day, 30 students wrapped up our activities in an open debate reported live by Al Jazeera: presented our initial expectations from the summit, how we enjoyed the experience and how we took home the experience. Education practitioner and policy makers from all over the world listened to our thoughts and plan. We were heard - the voice from actual learners.

3. Crazy learners, crazy friends

30 students have their own projects: open source curriculum, low-cost curriculum for the blind, teaching literacy to migrant laborers, teacher training and exchange, mentorship, NGO-supplying scholarship system, promoting activities in the gap year, Future Leader organization, women empowering, game learning, outsourced business expertise for nonprofits... All of them have deep involvement and motivation to be changemakers in their own ways.

However, we are young men and women, so the friendship was deep and sweet. We helped each other to complete tasks. We debated critically. We shared and motivated to each other.

For me, 30/10/2011 was the most incredible birthday. When we were talking at a restaurant in the Cultural Village, suddenly everyone came to me, gave me a birthday cake, danced and sang *"Happy birthday to you"* (in English and Arabian). I did not dream about it, but it happened.



Amazing birthday cake (Source: Tường Vy)

I believe I have fulfilled my goals set before the flight to Doha: experiencing the challenges, making new circle of friends, and grasping precious lessons from them as well as the summit. One student said *"I wish we were always learners, to stay hungry for learning"*.

Yes, we are learners with crazy manners and unbounded dreams. ■

TÔN NỮ TƯỜNG VY

FUNNY STORIES

Because of absence

Mother: Why did you get such a low mark on that test?

Junior: Because of absence.

Mother: You mean you were absent on the day of the test?

Junior: No, but the kid who sits next to me was.

Mistake

A police officer stops a blonde for speeding and asks her very nicely if she could see her license. She replied in a huff.

"I wish you guys could get your act together. Just yesterday you take away my license and then today you expect me to show it to you."

Beggar

"Why do you beg?"

"The truth is I beg to get money for booze (drink)."

"Why do you drink?"

"To give me the courage to beg". ■

Collected by LÊ THỐNG

NOTHING CAN BLOCK MY WAY

Teaching is an honorable and respectable job all over the world. When we were children, many people had dreamed about being a teacher. And here we are glad to hear a dream of one of our friends at Open University – Her name is Hồng Phương.

Hello everybody, my name is Trần Lê Hồng Phương. I am from AV08B1. This is my great honor to be on this issue on the occasion of Vietnamese Teachers' Day, so all of the best wishes of mine will come to my beloved teachers and my friends who are going to be teachers in the coming days.

At this moment as a senior, a lot of feelings are inside me. The mixture of happiness and sadness is fighting against each other because just one more semester I will end my student life; and I will start my new life, working as a teacher of English, which I have permanently been pursuing for years.

To me, I choose teaching career because it is not only a high security job that I can make a decent living but also my top passion that I want to pursue with determination. My desire to be a teacher was rooted when I was a child in primary school. After school, I usually played with my neighbors the teaching game. Can you guess who was chosen as a teacher? Of course, that's me! I was very happy because they trusted me and liked to listen to my explanation.



Pursue my dream (Source: Hồng Phương)

That was just the pleasure activity after class, but at that time none knew that was a fire that burned inside me, a motivation for me to study in order to reach my goal.

I love the feelings of being a teacher. I can meet new students every school year. I can share with them what I know. Moreover, teaching is a noble career. People will admire me, treat me with respect. Moreover, I like wearing Ao dai because it makes me more beautiful, confident and majestic.

After four years in this university, I have had a lot of memories with friends and teachers. However, the two teachers who have the most influences on me are Ms. Trần Mỹ Phương, and Ms. Nguyễn Thị Hoài Minh. First, about Ms. Mỹ Phương, since I studied with her, and she has always encouraged us to study hard to have a good future. I really appreciate her encouragement.

I have also learned a lot from Ms. Hoài Minh. She is the model of morals. I especially love her voice. The more I study with her, the more I love her. She makes my desire of being a teacher much stronger and stronger.

I know to be a good teacher is not easy at all. However, I chose it and nothing can block my way. I hope that everybody will have a satisfying job after graduation.

Good luck everybody! ■

TRẦN LÊ HỒNG PHƯƠNG

HOT SINGLES

All the right moves – One Republic
 Cry cry - T-ara
 Good-bye days - Yui
 Khoảng lặng phía sau thầy – Đoàn Trang
 Lighthouse – Westlife
 Look around - David Achuleta
 Minority – Green Day
 Mùa yêu – Mai Khôi
 Paradise – Infinite
 The lazy song – Bruno Mars



Now we have a writing of a respectful teacher in our faculty: Ms. Nguyễn Thị Hoài Minh.

JUST LET THE JOY GROW..

It was an odd! I could barely understand why many teachers teach in spite of incredible hardship and little recognition. So why did I decide to be a teacher? I could hardly explain. At the moment of making decision, the wheel turned and drove me to the open door to teaching profession. I stood there, at the threshold, puzzling over, and then tried a few steps forward. I all at once realized that I had never imagined how much growth, joy, and fulfillment waited in line for a new teacher like me. So that was the way I started my story.

The start was the hardest. I was all at sea with lesson preparation and students' varied attitudes. After all, I had not been trained to be a language teacher! My lessons were like "reports on English language", with somewhat old-fashioned examples and exercises, totally uninspiring. Then clearly the class atmosphere was usually rigid, the students became compulsory listeners. I kept my upper lip stiff seeing some students got lost, some others got bored, and some even skipped. Deep inside, actually, I was somehow overwhelmed by feelings of guilt. However, knowing that 'no pain, no gain', and that failures could pave the way to success, I worked on my weaknesses, learned to make sense out of normal things a teacher was supposed to do. So that was how I have headed for the new.

Out of those trials to bring about wind of change, my personal attachment and affection towards students have been growing thanks to their trust and support. Once, when I was still not confident, an older student came to me and said: "*Open your heart with honesty, you'll have the others feel the same way.*" These words of wisdom kept me up. Just like her, a lot of students

have reminded me that there are so many things I should be thankful and I should appreciate as a teacher, and that teaching is learning again. Their comments help me define what sort of teacher I want to be without fears. Good bye to "reports on English language." I do not want to teach them anything, I just find ways to help them discover it. So that is the simple truth I believe.

Now I can say why many teachers teach in spite of incredible hardship and little recognition. That is because the joy of teaching lies in the great pleasure witnessing their students' achievement and maturity.



Source: <http://www.sxc.hu>

Above all, the beauty of teaching profession is much more than material comfort and gains, instead, it is a bond to bring the best to humans that matters. In return, teachers are open to opportunities as they will never run out of possibilities of pushing the limit to success. For me, through many years of teaching, I enjoy it, always with pleasing sense of happiness when working with young people. Who knows how much love a teacher can share?

Then just let the joy grow... ■

NGUYỄN THỊ HOÀI MINH



Source: <http://www.vsedorogi.org>



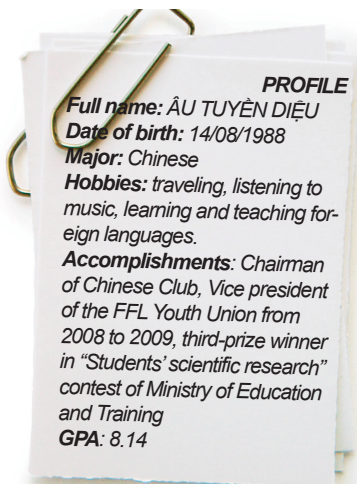
Fast bind, fast find
(Cần tắc vô ưu)

To fish in troubled water
(Thừa nước đục thả câu)

The tailor makes the man.
(Người đẹp vì lụa, lúa tốt vì phân)

Don't make a mountain out of a molehill.
(Đừng để việc bé xé ra to)

I HAVE TO INVEST MORE TIME AND ENERGY



Âu Tuyền Diệu (Source: Thanh Hương)

Mr. Dieu, an outstanding student of HCMC Open University, contributed significantly to enhance the youth activities of our FFL. In the previous issue, he sent us a message in "You have a message", now he has more viewpoints to share.

1. What is your job now? Are you pleased with this job?

Hello FFLers, right now I am a Chinese teacher, and I believe that the decision to be a teacher is one of the wisest that I've ever made. Teaching is a profession worth taking and being respected and valued, since teachers convey their perspectives to students with all their enthusiasm, passion and power, and consider this as their joy and happiness; so do I. Moreover, for me, I also enrich knowledge and learn a lot of social skills from my students in diverse fields that are totally unfamiliar to me.

2. In what way and when did you explore that you have a passionate interest in teaching?

In 2007, during Green Summer Charity campaign, I was assigned to teach Chinese to a 6-worker group for free in Tan Thuan Industrial Zone of District 7 for 3 months. Excitingly, I realized that I "had a crush" on teaching, since I didn't mind riding my bike from Binh Tan District to the class in District 7, standing in a podium and offering them my understandings. It was my happiness, it even could help relieve physical tiredness.

3. What have you done to realize your passion?

I count studying as the first priority, so I make endeavors to balance my study and vibrant extracurricular activities to achieve my key objectives – attaining profound knowledge about China. Also, when still a student, I took a part time job as a Chinese teacher for a language center where I accumulated necessary teaching experience. At first days being a teacher, I was stuck in considerably thorny challenges; however, by applying those experiences, by constant observing and studying from professors, I have gained a great deal of valuable lessons that I cannot be trained elsewhere to overcome those disadvantages.

4. When you were a student, were you worried about your future career? And what were they?

Like other students, I usually considered whether I could pursue my dream job after graduating, since I took up translating, not teaching as my specification (at that time, due to lack of students, the university didn't offer courses on teaching methodology). However, finally, these worries were eliminated after I was employed as an official teacher at a foreign language center due to my constant efforts and experiences.



A Chinese class instructed by Mr. Diệu (Source: Mỹ Linh)

5. As we all know, in term of teaching a foreign language, it is very daunting to help students to assimilate a new lesson. So what have you done to deal with it?

It is true that learning a foreign language is fairly challenging, particularly Chinese, since Chinese letters are hieroglyphic. Therefore, I am very careful and creative in designing my lectures. I have to invest more time and energy then. For instance, creating a comfortable, informal and friendly learning atmosphere is such a good way to encourage students to raise their questions and misunderstandings. Besides, applying visual aids, breaking a word into distinguished parts and then attaching a funny story pertaining to this word can enable students to learn new vocabulary faster and more efficiently. Also, I expose them in unplanned situations, letting them apply and remember a new lesson better.

Thank Mr. Dieu for the interesting conversation. ■

NGUYỄN THỊ MỸ LINH

YOU HAVE A MESSAGE

At this volume, we have messages with their sincere sharing and poems. Apart from those, we have a special one from Texas, US, by an alumnus of our faculty to her most impressive lecturer. Let's enjoy. ^^

1. From: TRẦN NGUYỄN NGỌC MAI (AV09A1)

To: all the professors of FFL with the best wishes

Perfect Teacher!

A Teacher is....

Someone who is wise...

Who cares about the students and wears no disguise

But is honest and open and shares from the heart

Not just lessons from books, but life where you are

A teacher takes time to help and tutor

With English or math or on a computer.

(By Trần Nguyễn Ngọc Mai)

2. From: BÙI THỊ PHƯƠNG (AV09A2)

To: FFL Journal Editorial Board

Hi FFL Journal,

I was very excited and delighted when I first read your new magazine. There are a lot of useful information that I have got. Thank to all of your efforts dedicating to this first new magazine.

From this time on, our students will have more chances to access to knowledge as well as to relax after school times. Thanks FFL journal a lot!!

I love poems a lot, so today, I'd love to share with you a poem that I really like.

You Can If You Think You Can!

*If you think you are beaten, you are,
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you like to win, but you think you can't,
It is almost certain you won't.*

*If you think you'll lose, you're lost,
For out in the world we find,
Success begins with a fellow's will.
It's all in the state of mind.*

*If you think you are outclassed, you are,
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.*

*Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man.
But soon or late the man who wins,
Is the man who thinks he can.*

(By C. W. Longenecker)

3. From: HÀ NHẬT LINH (AV09A3)

To: My parents

Dear my beloved parents,

On the Teachers' Day, I want to give thanks to you with all my heart. You are who brought a beautiful dream to me - be coming a teacher. However, I was too feeble to be strong, be confident to hold my dream. I gave up it without thinking of you. I am so sorry. I know I made you so sad.

However, you are who saved my dream. Thank you, my mother and my father. I promise I never give up my dream again.

My mother and my father, happy Teachers' Day. I love you.

4. From: ĐOÀN THỊ KHÁNH LINH

(FFL's student class of 2002, former President of The Sun Club from 2005 to 2006, finished M.A. at Education Management, is currently a teacher and pursuing MBA in Texas, US)

To: Ms. Lê Phương Thảo

"It is not so much what is poured into a student, but what is planted by the teacher that really counts."



Source: Khánh Linh

In retrospect, the most prominent memory during my college life in Vietnam was all the best time I attended writing courses under a truly great instruction by Ms. Thao Le. Every step she guided students in class contributed to our lifelong learning strategies. We excitedly learned rudimentary principles from starting a word, a phrase, a sentence, a paragraph to a meaningful story of our real-life experience.

More than a teacher, she appeared as a friend to advice me how to build a teamwork culture and become a leader of The Sun Club. Her trust and belief has motivated me to continue the significant educational major in the states, to be an outstanding school administrator. All in all, I have found, in Ms. Thao Le, the guidance, discipline, friendship and love.

Dedicated to my beloved teacher, Ms. Thao Le. ■

OU SPOTLIGHTS

1. Trip to museums

In this semester, each 2011-year class has to arrange a visit to the museums in Ho Chi Minh City. Then the photos taken during the trip should be reported to ngoaingu_ou@yahoo.com.

2. English / Chinese / Japanese Speaking Contest

Main topic: Undergraduates and Career Orientation

Candidate: All students studying at HCM Open University.

Semi-final round: 08/12/2011 (tentative): English (14 selected candidates), Japanese (10 ones) and Chinese (10 ones). Each candidate has a 10- minute presentation in front of the panel of judges. The result will be announced right after that.

Final round: 11/12/2011 (tentative): The selected from the semi-final round will have 2-3 minutes to answer the questions from the panel of judges and audiences. You can gather together and cheer up your friends who are candidates in this contest, remember to arrange your timetable to attend this event. \:D/

3. Seminar "How to study effectively at University?"

Content: Introducing syllabus of each major, output criteria, efficient study methods, second foreign languages choices, Q&A.

Time and Venue: For student class of 2011, English major

8:00 – 11:00, 04/12/2011, Hall of 422 DDA campus

For student class of 2011, Chinese, Japanese major

8:00 – 11:00, 11/12/2011, Hall of 422 DDA campus

4. FFL: The Sun Club's picnic: Saigon tour

Location: District 1

Time: 8:00 AM, Saturday, 03/12/2011

Place: Ho Chi Minh City Youth Culture House

4 Phạm Ngọc Thạch street, District 1

Ticket: 35.000 VND (including food and drink)

To buy the tickets, please contact: Tiên - 0939 460 219

For more information, you can send email to: the_sun_club@yahoo.com

We hope you will enjoy that picnic with lots of fun. ^.^

CONTINUED IN PAGE 16

OPPORTUNITY PLANET

1. Youth to Business

Time: 08th January 2012

Venue: Hanoi Academy School (D45-D46 Ciputra International City, Hanoi). For those who are in other locations, you can manage to travel to Hanoi.

General Content:

Business to Youth: There are 10 workshops delivered by experts and guest speakers

Youth to Business: Students of each workshop in the morning will be divided by group to participate in related business case competitions.

Career Fair: Exhibition of recruitment and higher education opportunity

How To Apply: Submit your CV and Registration Form (downloaded from <http://ilead.aiesechanoi.org/home/youth-to-business/>) to ilead2012@gmail.com before 23:59, **11/12/2011**

Fee: 100.000 VND/ person (For lunch)

2. "I have a dream" Contest

Participants: 18 - 30 year-old people

The story (less than 2000 words) is actually from the reality or observed by you. One participant can submit more than one story. Remember to write your profile: full name, date of birth, school / company, mailing address, Identification card number.

Submit your story to <http://uocmo.tamtay.vn/>, deadline: **20/12/2011**

3. 6th World Youth Congress

WYC is a biennial gathering of young activists from all over the world who are focused on expanding the role of youth in sustain

-able development. The Congress will be held from the 12th to the 23rd April in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Program: Exhibition, Action Projects, Social and Cultural Events, Skills Workshops, Plenaries & Roundtables, Debate and Festival.

Deadline for International Applicants: **31/12/2011**. Visit <http://wycrio2012.org/?p=395> for more details.

4. Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations: Harvard 2012 Conference

Theme: Cross-Cultural Connections: Weaving New Silk Roads
Dates: February 17-20, 2012

Location: Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA

Applicants: Undergraduates and graduates

Attendees will explore pertinent issues concerning the Asia region, including foreign policy, public health, environmental issues, media, and entrepreneurship. Application Deadline: **28/01/2012**. Please visit <http://www.hpai.org/> for more details.

5. The Arvon Foundation: Writers' & Artists' Yearbook 2012 Short Story Competition

The Arvon Foundation is now offering you the chance to win £500, plus a place on an Arvon residential writing course of your choice! All you have to do is enter a short story (for adults) of no more 2,000 words, on the theme of "identity" and email it to shortstorycompetition@bloomsbury.com with "WAYB12 competition" as the subject line.

Deadline: **14/02/2012**.

For more information, visit

<http://www.writersandartists.co.uk/short-story-competition-2011/>. ■

NGUYỄN QUỐC VŨ

SPONSORS



CONGRATULATIONS!!!! We have the very first readers who are so lucky to have our books for The FFL Journal Volume 01 (October 2011). ^.^

Here is the share of Nguyễn Huỳnh Ái Tiên, the lucky girl receiving the book "Để thành công ở trường đại học".



Source: Ngọc Tuyết

When I heard that I was one of the luckiest students receiving a book from the FFL Journal, I was very surprised. At first, I thought Tuyet was joking because I had sent many vouchers like this to other publishers and the luck had never come to me. This time I was really fortunate, I could not believe it!

I got the book "Để thành công ở trường đại học" – a very meaningful and useful book for most of the college students. I have read every page of it for three days. Also, I want to send a message to all of the other students that "Let's encourage the FFL Journal a lot, try your luck by submitting vouchers to them. Perhaps you can be the next lucky one".

Thank all of the members in Editorial Board of the FFL Journal for all your efforts. I wish you guys have good health and be able to make much more exciting publications for us. Love you all!

And now here we go to new books for this month, remember to cut and send your voucher as quick as possible to us to be the next lucky readers. :D

1. Học tập cũng cần chiến lược:

- Nguyễn Hải Thụy (AV09A3)
- Bùi Thị Thu Thảo (AV09A3)

2. Để thành công ở trường đại học:

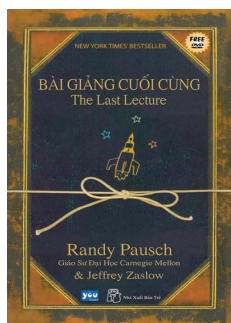
- Nguyễn Huỳnh Ái Tiên (AV09A4)
- Nguyễn Thị Hoàn (AV09A4)

3. Đa dạng sinh học:

- Vũ Hồng Nhung (AV10A2)
- Đinh Thị The (AV09A3)

BÀI GIẢNG CUỐI CÙNG

Author: Randy Pausch, Jeffrey Zaslow
– Translator: Vu Duy Man
Publisher: Tre
Price: 46.400VND



"We can not change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand." - Randy Pausch

The lecture he gave "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams". It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, inspiring to the other people, respecting and having good use of every moment in the life. If you would like to change your mind, enter and enjoy this book to explore many valuable lessons.

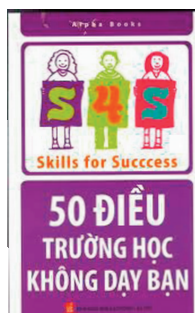
This book is available at Vinabook.com – an online bookshop with the aims of having the best and fastest service for customers, developing the online book market in Vietnam.

Website: <http://www.vinabook.com>.

50 ĐIỀU TRƯỜNG HỌC KHÔNG DẠY BẠN

Author: Charles J. Sykes
Publisher: Lao Dong Xa Hoi
Price: 39.000VND

"In school, the children was taught that a good child have to love people, to respect their grandparents, parents and



teachers; to have affection with friends. None of school told them that you are not perfect, but they do not need to prove to be a perfect one." There is no lesson training them to cope with the injustices of life, to run into so many difficulties. The answer is in the book called "50 điều trường học không dạy bạn", and you will get a lot of interesting things. You can read it to learn something for your maturity.

This book is available at Alpha Books – a bookshop with main product lines as: Alpha Biz (management), Alpha Edu (education and thinking), Alpha Omega (classic), Alpha Kid (for children), IMONE (literature).

Website: <http://www.alphabooks.vn>.

BIỂN ĐÔNG VÀ HẢI ĐẢO VIỆT NAM

Publisher: Tri Thuc
Price: 30.000 VND

With "Biển Đông và hải đảo Việt Nam", you can explore a great deal of things about our lovely country. Read and cogitate the problem "Respecting a country's sovereignty" in order to show our responsibility to our country. We hope all of you will figure out several memorable things which can make you think, change and act in the awareness, not in unconsciousness.



This book is available at Publisher of Knowledge – where scholars, researchers and students can trust to their quality, focus on spreading great trends of thoughts in both classic and modern.

Website: <http://nxbtrithuc.com.vn>

PHẠM NGỌC TUYẾT

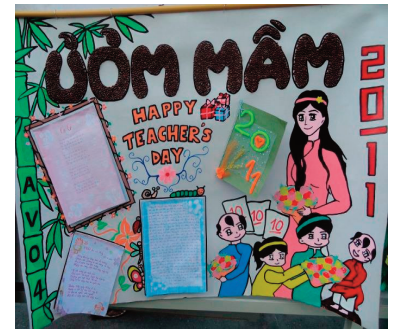
ART GALLERY



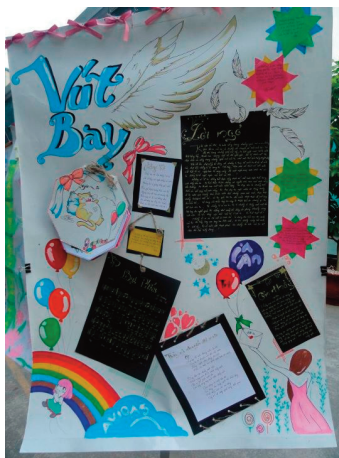
By NGUYỄN THIÊN PHƯỚC -



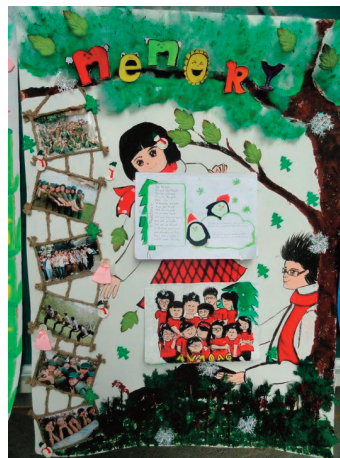
AV10A2



AV10A4



AV10A5



AV10A6



HV10A1

BAD-MINTON	<p>MEN'S SINGLES: <i>Champion:</i> Tô Thành Lộc – AV09A1 <i>Second-rate:</i> Phạm Văn Mạnh – AV08A2</p> <p>WOMEN'S SINGLES: <i>Champion:</i> Tô Thị Mai Xuân – AV10A3 <i>Second-rate:</i> Bùi Hoàng Mỹ Linh – NB09 <i>Third-rate:</i> Trương Bội Hồng – NB10A1</p>	<p>DUALS: <i>Champions:</i> Thành Lộc - Tô Thị Mai Xuân (AV09A1 - AV10A3) <i>Second-rate:</i> Phạm Văn Mạnh - Võ Bùi Thanh Thúy (AV08A2)</p>
FOOTBALL	<p>MEN <i>Champion:</i> AV08A2 <i>Second-rate:</i> AV10A5 <i>Third-rate:</i> AV08A1 Secondary prizes <i>King of defenders:</i> Trương Quang Thịnh (AV08A2) - 22 goals <i>Excellent goal-keeper:</i> Lê Công Thịnh (AV10A5) <i>Enthusiastic and fair-play cheerleaders:</i> AV11A2</p>	<p>WOMEN <i>Champion:</i> AV11A1 <i>Second-rate:</i> AV10A7 <i>Third-rate:</i> AV11A6 Secondary prizes <i>King of defenders:</i> Trần Thị Mỹ Loan (AV11A1) - 4 goals <i>Excellent goal-keeper:</i> Lê Thị Quyên (AV11A6) <i>Enthusiastic and fair-play cheerleaders:</i> NB11A1</p>

CONTINUING PAGE 15

5. Online Contest: Sea and Islands of the Country

This contest is held with the aim to inform adequate precise orthodox information about the sea and islands in Vietnam and our government's policies and guidelines toward this.

We hope that the youth, the officers and lecturers would take part in this contest together.

Time: 06/11 /2011 – 04/12/2011

The contest includes 4 parts carried out in 4 weeks. Those who want to take part in, please do all of these parts on the website of "Tuoi Tre" Magazine: <http://chuyentrang.tuoi-tre.vn/Bien-dao-que-huong/>

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.ou.edu.vn/dtn/Pages/Hoi-thi-truc-tuyen-Bien-Dao-Que-Huong.aspx>

6. Results of Competition of wall-magazine for 20/11/2011

First-rate: AV10A2

Second-rate: AV11A5

Third-rate: AV10A5 và AV10A6

Best letter for teachers: Trần Thị Hiền (HV10)

CHU THỊ NHƯ TRANG