



2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201 • www.vef.gov • Phone 703-351-5053 • Fax 703-351-1423

Lynne A. McNamara, Ph.D.
Executive Director

PRESS RELEASE
VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION SPONSORS ELEVEN U.S.
FACULTY SCHOLARS TO TEACH IN VIETNAM
IN
ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-14

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Contacts:

In the United States– Dr. Lynne McNamara, Executive Director: 1-703-351-5053
In Vietnam – Dr. Phuong Nguyen, Country Director: 84-4-3936-670

Hanoi, Vietnam, and Washington, D.C., September 13, 2013 – The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce the selection of 11 American professors as the sixth group to teach at Vietnamese universities as part of its U.S. Faculty Scholar (USFS) Program. This distinguished group of U.S. professors will teach during the 2013-2014 Academic Year.

The U.S. Faculty Scholar 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.

Each of the U.S. professors will lead different teaching projects in Vietnam this year under the U.S. Faculty Scholar Program.

Dr. Juzar Ali M.D., FRCP(C); FCCP is currently Interim CEO/Administrator and Interim Medical Director of the Louisiana State University (LSU) Public Hospital & CLINICS System and Professor of Clinical Medicine, Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Adjunct Professor, School of Nursing, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC), Adjunct Professor, Department of Tropical Medicine, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and faculty in the Tulane University Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Medicine. He is a Guest Faculty Member at Ege University & Hospital, Chest Unit, Izmir, Turkey and a previous recipient of the U.S. Fulbright Grant and a Fulbright Alumni Grant for teaching at Ege University, Izmir, Turkey and has extensive international experience teaching in other countries. His VEF U.S. Faculty Scholar award will partner with LSUHSC, New Orleans, and Thai Binh Medical University, Thai Binh Province, Vietnam, through graduate level web-based remote teaching modalities introduced through face-to-face interaction. His course, developed with input from the host university, is “Clinical Pathological Radiological Correlation in Chest Medicine” (“CPR in Chest Medicine”) and has the following goals:

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- Enhance subject knowledge in chest medicine focusing on prevalent chest disorders
- Understand the impact of teaching and learning in a culturally diverse environment
- Develop basic mentorship grid and enhance it to a wider network and matrix
- Establish the groundwork for future enhancement, sustainability, research and collaboration.

Dr. Jay Bagga will teach a computer science course in the Department of Software Engineering at the University of Engineering and Technology, Vietnam National University, Hanoi. The class “Theory of Computation with Software Experimentation” will be taught from August to December 2013 through videoconferencing from Ball State University. He will also visit Hanoi in August and December to teach the class in person. Dr. Bagga is a Professor of Computer Science at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. His extensive research is funded by government, industry and universities. He is active in international collaboration and international exchange programs management. In 2000, he was a Senior U.S. Fulbright Scholar at the University of Zimbabwe. He has won outstanding researcher and outstanding faculty awards at Ball State University. He was also a VEF U.S. Faculty Scholar in 2011 and 2012.

Dr. Deborah D.L. Chung is a professor of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering of the University at Buffalo (UB), State University of New York. Her VEF U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant for 2013-2014 will enhance the existing cooperation between Thai Nguyen University of Technology (TNUT) in Vietnam and UB in undergraduate mechanical engineering education. A 3-credit course on engineering materials will be given by Professor Chung to the students of TNUT by videoconferencing during the fall 2013 semester. Professor Chung is a Fellow of ASM International and the American Carbon Society, with a Ph.D. degree in Materials Science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1977), an Honorary Doctorate from Alicante University, Spain (2011), the Niagara Mohawk Endowed Chair Professorship from University at Buffalo (1991), the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities from SUNY (2003), and the Pettinos Award from the American Carbon Society (2004). Her publications include 500 journal papers and 10 books.

Dr. Mong-Hong Lee is a Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Oncology of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (UTMDACC). Under the auspices of the VEF U.S. Faculty Scholar Program, he will organize a Cancer Cell Signaling course at Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City. This course will provide learners with essential knowledge and information about the most important recent discoveries in cancer research and treatment. Dr. Lee trains many Ph.D. students and has coordinated multiple core courses such as Cancer Cell Signaling, Mechanisms of Human Disease and Cancer, among others during his 16-year tenure at UTMDACC. He has lectured in China, Taiwan, Puerto Rico, and Japan. He was selected for an Outstanding Educator award (2003), the John P. McGovern Outstanding Teaching Award (2009), and Educator of the Month at UTMDACC (2010). He is very enthusiastic about contributing to the development of science and technology in Vietnam.

Dr. Terry Marsh is an Associate Professor of Microbiology at Michigan State University (MSU) in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. For over 15 years, Marsh’s laboratory has focused on the structure of microbial communities from a number of different ecosystems including contaminated sediment, lake sediment and soils, freshwater, pig tonsils, vaginal tract, and fish eggs. In addition they have isolated and characterized bacterial strains capable of reducing and bioaccumulating metals and producing antimicrobials. Marsh’s laboratory has performed comparative genomic analyses on *Desulfitobacterium* and *Ralstonia*.spp. Marsh is the recipient of funding from NSF, DOE, and NIH and was awarded an AT&T Technology Award for a blended course in Basic Biotechnology. In 2006, he began his association with Can Tho University in Can Tho, Vietnam, where he assisted in the curriculum design for their Biotechnology Institute and guided an exchange program for CTU and MSU staff from 2007-2012.

Dr. Austin Marshall has over forty years of experience in industry as well as academia in the field of waste management facility design and construction. He currently serves as Professor and Director of the Construction Management Program at the University of Texas at El Paso. He has also taught engineering and waste management courses in various countries. He will be teaching a VEF-sponsored course at Hue University in Vietnam on “Waste Management Practices” using a hybrid in-class and live online method in the fall of 2013. Dr. Marshall has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University, a Master of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Michigan, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and Builder.

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Dr. Grant J. Mathews is a Professor of Theoretical Astrophysics and Cosmology in the Department of Physics at the University of Notre Dame (UND) and Director of the UND Center for Astrophysics. He will teach face-to-face courses in introductory astronomy and the general theory of relativity and cosmology at the Hanoi National University of Education. He has published over 230 refereed journal papers with over 6,100 citations and presented over 300 invited talks and colloquia in astrophysics, and cosmology. Professor Mathews is a Fellow of the American Physical Society. Among previous international experiences he has been a Visiting Professor at the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan from 1994-2013, and distinguished lecturer at the Tokyo University, Center for Excellence. In Vietnam he has been an invited lecturer and organizer of the School of Astrophysics, Hanoi National University of Education in 2006 and 2007, and has given invited lectures at the Center for Theoretical Physics, Vietnamese Academy of Science and Technology.

Dr. Walker Smith is a Professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science at the College of William & Mary. He is a biological oceanographer, with extensive experience in the Antarctic, but also has been conducting research off the coast of Vietnam. He also taught a short course at Nha Trang dealing with marine photosynthesis last year. He is the holder of the Plumeri Award for Research Excellence from William & Mary, serves on two editorial boards, and has published three books and over 200 peer-reviewed research articles. Smith will teach a course on “Biological Oceanography” at the Institute of Oceanography in Nha Trang, with some laboratory exercises during an initial visit and lectures by video-conferencing. While the course will provide an overview of the entire ocean, it will focus on coastal processes and highlight the emerging challenges of coastal pollution and climate change to coastal marine resources.

Dr. Rao Vemuri, Emeritus Professor, College of Engineering, University of California, Davis, has been awarded VEF’s U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant to teach two courses at the University of Science, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City. Students from many colleges and universities, in and around Ho Chi Minh City, are expected to benefit from these courses. Professor Vemuri will deliver his lectures partly in person and partly via Internet-based, videoconferencing. He will team-teach these courses with assistance from local Vietnamese faculty. Introduction to Machine Learning is scheduled for August through December 2013 and Advanced Machine Learning and Big Data will be taught from February 2014 to June 2014. Professor Vemuri has experience teaching in India, Argentina and Mexico. He visited India as a Fulbright-Nehru scholar in 2010. He also taught full-length and mini courses, in person and over the Internet, to students in India on behalf of Indo-U.S. Collaboration for Engineering Education.

Dr. Michael C. Wadman, M.D. is the Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in Omaha, Nebraska. After receiving his bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago in 1988 and his medical degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1992, he completed an internship in emergency medicine at the University of Cincinnati and a residency in emergency medicine at Truman Medical Center/University of Missouri, Kansas City where he served as Chief Resident. He joined the UNMC faculty in 1995, and is an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine. In 2003, he founded the first emergency medicine residency program in Nebraska and served as Program Director for seven years. Dr. Wadman is an oral examiner for the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM). He has received multiple teaching awards and has published over 50 manuscripts, abstracts, and textbook chapters.

Dr. Glenn M. Young, Professor of Food Science and Technology and Chair of the Microbiology Graduate Program at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis), will be working with Hanoi University of Agriculture (HUA) and Nong Lam University (NLU) during the fall semester of 2013. He will be teaching “Action Research in Crop Protection and Food Science.” The course will combine onsite and distance learning to involve students in active learning through applied research to promote integration of fundamental knowledge with real-world experiences. The course will connect students to local farmers at field research sites established in 2010 by Young and other UC Davis colleagues collaborating with HUA and NLU on a capacity-building project supported by USAID Horticulture CRSP. Young also is the UC Davis Coordinator for Curriculum Development of the NLU Advanced Program for Food Science sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam. Professor Young has been working in Southeast Asia since 2004.

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Dr. Lynne McNamara, VEF Executive Director, stated: “VEF is honored to have selected eleven outstanding American Professors for the 2013 Cohort. These U.S. professors are making a permanent impact on Vietnam and its higher education system; the collaboration between the U.S. and Vietnamese universities will be strengthened by this program.”

Dr. Isaac Silvera, Board Chairman on the VEF Board of Directors stated: “The U.S. Faculty Scholar Program is pleased to have supported Vietnamese universities in their efforts to establish advanced programs and sustainable collaborations between U.S. and Vietnamese universities.”

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF), a U.S. Federal Government agency, is in its tenth year of operations. VEF has placed 467 Fellows at 92 top-tier U.S. graduate research institutions, mostly for doctoral degrees for its Fellowship Program. Since 2007 VEF also has provided opportunities for 42 Vietnamese to pursue postdoctoral programs at U.S. universities for up to 12 months through the Visiting Scholar Programs. 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: www.vef.gov.

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