



# Trinh Foundation

AUSTRALIA



## Beyond Borders Skype Mentoring Program is Well Underway

In May this year TFA launched the [Beyond Borders Skype Mentoring Program](#) which is a 6 month pilot project where recent speech therapy graduates from Vietnam were matched with experienced international mentors and TFA-trained interpreters. There are currently 21 groups of mentoring triplets (mentee-mentor-interpreter) working together via online communication platforms to pursue specific professional development goals of the mentee. Most mentoring partnerships are now well into their sessions and are beginning to achieve great outcomes. TFA are delighted to hear about the success of the program and will continue to work with participants to support any challenges that arise during implementation. A few of the participants share their reflections of the program so far...

*A mentee "I am happy joining the TFA's mentoring program. After 3 working sessions with the mentor and the interpreter, I have gained interesting and helpful experiences. The sessions are easy-going, open and we obtain the goals as planned. This program supports me with clinical decisions, suggests new ideas for my work. I can improve my confidence and motivation."*

*A mentor "I joined the mentoring program as a mutual learning experience. I thoroughly enjoy sharing my ideas and expertise with other clinicians, particularly in a country such as Vietnam where speech pathology is an emerging profession. Similarly, I have been inspired by the skills of my mentee and am enjoying learning about the Vietnamese culture."*

*An interpreter "I really love working for this program and hope to assist you (TFA) more in the future!"*

[See further reflections here.](#)

TFA acknowledges Speech Pathology Australia's grant support for the project.

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## MCNV Collaboration Update

We are hoping the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training will soon approve the Proposal to establish a 2.3 year Masters degree in Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) at HCMC University of Medicine and Pharmacy. If so, teaching can commence around May 2019. Meanwhile 14 Australian speech pathology academics and senior clinicians together with 7 Vietnamese health academics have been preparing the syllabus for the 18 SALT subjects. The other 9 foundation and research subjects will be taught by Vietnamese academics.

At Danang University of Medicine, Pharmacy and Technology (DUMPT), AVI volunteer Sarah Day is working closely with staff to develop the framework for a 4 year Bachelor of Rehabilitation which will include a 3 year SALT stream. High school leavers will commence the first year of this Bachelor in September 2018 and stream into physiotherapy or SALT in September 2019. Prof Lindy McAllister, a Director of TFA, has been supporting the development of both degrees, and working closely with Sarah as she leads the development of the clinical placement program for the DUMPT SALT course.

Prof Lindy McAllister is retiring from The University of Sydney in July 2018. The University has appointed her a Professor Emerita in recognition of her outstanding contributions to SALT education, both in Australia and in Vietnam. She will continue to work closely with The University of Sydney, HCMC UMP and MCNV under the MOU TFA has with those parties, to support the development and delivery of the masters and bachelor degrees. It is very exciting to see two university degrees in preparation for Vietnam, with 3 more to follow in the years ahead!

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## Exciting Developments in Danang

*by Sarah Day*



It has been a super busy 4 months for me in Danang, since arriving in mid-March. I am on assignment here as an Australian Volunteer Speech Pathology Advisor at DUMPT until the end of December, working in collaboration with TFA to continue the development of speech pathology in Vietnam, and more specifically within the Rehabilitation Department at the University, where there are two formally trained speech therapists and 4 speech therapy aides who I work closely with. One of my main priorities is to work with the University and Professor Lindy McAllister to develop the pilot Bachelor of Rehabilitation (Speech Pathology) curriculum and syllabus, ready for implementation beginning September 2019.

As well as curriculum development I have been able to offer a number of workshops on the value of play, paediatric feeding and the role of the paediatric speech therapist. I've also been busy developing partnerships with over ten organisations that will support external clinical placements for the Bachelor students in the future.

### *Reflections of an attendee of the paediatric feeding workshop*

"Hello, I am Tran Phi Hung and I work at City Children's Hospital. On average per day, I work with three children with feeding and swallowing difficulties and children with behavioural feeding disorder. This encouraged me to enhance my knowledge in this particular field to efficiently support these children and their families.

The workshop provided very useful knowledge for my professional development such as the typical development of paediatric swallowing and feeding, swallowing disorders and especially assessment and intervention for infants, and children with behavioural feeding disorder and food aversion.

Currently, I am applying all the knowledge I have learnt into treatment for children with swallowing disorders, intervention for children with behavioural feeding disorders and providing instructions for parents.

Additionally, I have shared the knowledge I gained from the workshop with the colleagues of my department via specialized meetings and lessons for them."

[See more reflections of attendees here.](#)



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## Humanity and Inclusion Collaboration

Over the last month, the TFA volunteer program has seen the arrival of two more fantastic volunteers in Vietnam as part of our collaboration with Humanity and Inclusion (HI). Speech and Language Pathologists Janella Christie and Leila Ball arrived in Hue in June to run workshops focusing primarily on paediatric neurology. During their mission, they will also play a critical role in supporting the development and writing of paediatric speech therapy guidelines. We appreciate the substantial amount of work both therapists have put into making their visit a success.

TFA also appreciates the ongoing work of volunteer Jemma Thompson, based in Ho Chi Minh City. As you will read below, Jemma is the first volunteer with the joint TFA/HI program and is

providing workshops and essential on the ground support to the hospital's speech therapy unit. She is also working with HI and local staff to develop adult speech therapy guidelines for Vietnam - a huge job!

The TFA volunteer program is keen to hear from adult therapists with a neurology background who would be available to volunteer for 3 months or more. For more information, please visit the TFA website or email

[volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org](mailto:volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org)

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## Snapshot of a Volunteer...

*by Jemma Thompson*



Living and working in Ho Chi Minh City means no two days are ever the same. I had little idea of what to expect when I boarded my flight in Brisbane back in April but have been overwhelmed by a sense of love for this country and its people. Although my daily commute is consistently on the back of a motorbike, each day at work is unique and interesting. Many days I work directly with the therapists and patients, providing support and guidance to develop confidence and skills. Other days involve formal teaching or development of resources. No two days are the same but every day I am met with enthusiasm and gratitude. I genuinely feel a part of the team and am greeted so warmly wherever I am on the hospital campus by staff, patients and families. The local team and I share lunch each day and provide

support in any way I need. They have taken me out for dinner and constantly share local traditions and culinary delights with me. I feel so fortunate to have found Trinh Foundation and been given the opportunity to come to Vietnam. Not only am I developing the profession I love, but I'm also growing and learning so much along the way.

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## Successful Stall and TFA Dinner at SPA Conference



This year Trinh Foundation was well represented at the Speech Pathology Australia (SPA) Conference. We hosted an information stall and papers were presented by directors and post graduate students. We were lucky to have the support of Mr Dien and Ms Ben Pham in our promotion and fundraising activities. It was great to reconnect with past volunteers and supporters and to welcome many new supporters at our stall.

On the Monday night we held our annual fundraising dinner at the SEN Restaurant. We enjoyed a beautiful 3 course meal with both long-standing supporters and people learning about TFA for the first time. At the dinner Mr Dien gave a presentation about the history of speech therapy with Trinh Foundation in Vietnam and also his personal journey as a speech therapist. Everyone was moved by his excellent talk and we thank him for making such a valuable contribution to the event. We also held a raffle at the conference. The lucky winners were: 1st prize Jane Mackenzie, 2nd prize Anja Edler and 3rd prize Jennie Oates. Thank you to everyone who came along to support TFA at the conference.

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## Congratulations to our Colleagues at UPNT



Trinh Foundation Australia congratulate our colleagues at UPNT on the successful completion of their first independently run paediatric speech therapy training program. This course was the outcome of many years of capacity building by TFA at the university, to enable them to run a speech therapy training program without external help. TFA are pleased to see the realisation of one our key goals at UPNT. Through the train the trainer model staff have been able to acquire speech therapy capacity themselves, both as practitioners and teachers. We look forward to more examples of our work coming to fruition across Vietnam in the coming years.

## Donation of Texts for Vietnam



Director Katie Walker-Smith was pleased to accept the pictured texts kindly donated by AGOSCI Australia which will be utilised in Vietnam to support students' learning

## Interpreter Training at Hanoi



**Congratulations and welcome to our new interpreters who recently completed the Interpreter Short Course in Hanoi**



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*Trinh Foundation Australia is proud to be a partner for Project J594 Vietnam Speech-Language Program with Global Development Group. GDG (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian DFAT approved Non-Government Organisation [NGO] carrying out quality humanitarian projects with approved Partners*

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