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Trinh Foundation

AUSTRALIA



Masters and Bachelors Commencing this Year

The Masters in speech and language therapy commences at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City in March 2019. Four foundation subjects will be taught in this spring session. Vietnamese academics will teach Linguistics (Dr Ly Kha) and Speech Sound Disorders (Dr Ben Pham who recently graduated with her PhD at Charles Sturt University in Australia). Visiting Australian academics will teach Communication across the lifespan (Prof Lindy McAllister) and Atypical language development in early childhood (Dr Natalie Munro). Students then formally commence the 2 year masters degree in September 2019. Many of the masters subjects will be taught by visiting Australian academics.

Planning is well underway for the start of the speech and language therapy stream in a Bachelor degree in rehabilitation at Da Nang University of Medicine, Technology and Pharmacy. Students are currently doing their generic foundation year and will start the 3 year speech and language therapy stream in September 2019. The speech and language therapy subjects will be taught by a range of Vietnamese clinicians who have completed the post-graduate certificates in speech and language therapy run by TFA at University Pham Ngoc Thach over the last decade, as well as visiting international clinicians and academics.

These two degrees will require up to 50 skilled clinicians from overseas to supervise clinical placements and support local SLTs. We would love to hear from people interested in acting as volunteer supervisors.

If you are interested in volunteering see [further information about volunteering](#) available on our website or email volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org

DAP Funding for Speech Therapy Resources in Vietnam



TFA recently supported the Rehabilitation Department from Da Nang University of Medicine, Technology and Pharmacy to complete an application for funding under the Australian Consulate-General's Direct Aid Program (DAP). The grant application was successful and the Australian Consulate-General (HCMC) has awarded over 80,000,000VND (almost \$5,000AUD) for the purchase of speech therapy resources to be used in the clinical education of speech and language therapy bachelor students in Da Nang. Funding will be used for two major projects:

1. To purchase 100 copies of the Vietnamese Language Screener (VLS) for 3-8 year old children. This screener is the very first Vietnamese norm-referenced paediatric language assessment tool to be created. Ms Averil Ivey (previous Speech Pathology Australian Volunteer in Hanoi) and Dr Sarah Verdon (TFA

Director and Research Fellow at Charles Sturt University) are responsible for creating the tool and developing the norms. Once the VLS is printed, copies will be shared with the Rehabilitation Department at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy (HCMC) for soon to commence speech therapy Masters students to use in their clinical education subjects. Da Nang speech and language therapy Bachelor students will also benefit from access to the VLS. TFA speech therapy graduates from UPNT-HCMC who would like a copy of the VLS to use in their practice will also be provided with a copy. Further information regarding this process will be provided to graduates in the coming months.

2. Therapy resource kits for Bachelor students will also be purchased with grant funding. Five adult and five paediatric kits will be created for students to take to with them to their external clinical placements. Speech therapy is very new to Da Nang, and many of the speech and language therapy clinics in the city hospitals are under-resourced. Students will require a range of resources to engage in quality clinical placement experiences and additional resources can now be purchased to support this need, thanks to the Australian Consulate-General (HCMC).

TFA would like to publicly thank the Australian Consulate-General (HCMC) and the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for making grants such as DAP available to support necessary and significant projects that make real differences for communities and people in Vietnam.

Volunteer Making a Difference in Hue



Since late June 2018 Leila Ball has been volunteering for Humanity and Inclusion (HI) in Hue. Her placement was made possible by TFA's partnership with Humanity and Inclusion Leila initially worked in a consultancy role supporting the development of

National Vietnamese Guidelines for the Speech and Language Therapy management of Cerebral Palsy in Children.

Since August she has been working closely with the Speech and Language Therapy teams at Hue Central Hospital, Provincial Rehabilitation Hospital and Hue Medical University Hospital to support the development of their clinical skills across the continuum of care.

Leila has been welcomed enthusiastically and her work greatly appreciated by all teams. In particular, Vietnamese speech therapist Ms Na (Truong Thi Thuy Hang) has been working closely with Leila, including providing interpreting support to help maximize Leila's influence and share her significant knowledge and skill.

Benefits of Speech Therapy



Speech therapists Ms Truong Thi Thuy Hang (Na) and Ms Hoang Thi Van Anh from Hoa Sen Speech Therapy Center in Hue have been making a difference to many children's lives. Both Ms Van Anh and now Ms Na have been seeing a child twice a week for about 18 months. A parent of this child reports how speech therapy has helped their child:

“My daughter is almost 3 years old. When she was 1 year, she did not respond when her name was called. At 14 months, she was taken to doctor but there was no conclusion. Then at 18 months, she went to Hoa Sen Speech Therapy Center with Ms Van Anh as the therapist. After Tet she could say some words. Then she studied with Ms Na and could say more words. Currently my child still can't focus much, and she

still plays to her own agenda. Speech therapy has helped my child to focus and talk more. It has also helped me to know how to play with my child at home. The benefits of speech therapy are that it is helping my child to know the functions of things by using pictures, toys, and photographs. It also helps my child focus and play in a more structured way. My family know how to teach my child in life thanks to the sessions in the center and at home.”

TFA Welcomes New Director



TFA welcomes Joanne Walters to the board. Joanne is a Lecturer and Clinical Education Coordinator for the Speech Pathology (honours) program at the University of Newcastle (UON), Australia. She is a certified practicing speech pathologist with an interest in paediatric speech sound disorders. In her role as clinical education coordinator she is responsible for strategic planning and implementation of the clinical education program. Joanne has a particular interest in exploring and engaging with diversity in clinical education through use of innovative models of clinical education such as simulation that enhance the student learning experience. Her interest in Vietnam began with students from UON undertaking clinical placements from 2008 supported by the Trinh Foundation. Since then Joanne has ongoing involvement in Vietnam through student supervision, mentoring of clinical educators, provision of workshops to teachers and parents and developing resources.

Congratulations Dr Pham on your Graduation



TFA would like to congratulate Dr Ben Phạm who recently graduated with her PhD from Charles Sturt University. She received her PhD for her thesis titled '*Children's acquisition of consonants, semivowels, vowels, and tones in Northern Viet Nam*'. One of her supervisors from CSU Professor Sharynne McLeod also conveyed that her published journal articles and an encyclopedia entry from her PhD, have influenced research and professional practice in Australia, Vietnam, the US and other parts of the world. TFA joins Professor McLeod in congratulating Dr Phạm on all she has achieved and the influence her work has and will make throughout the world.

More Changes in Roles with TFA

TFA would like to thank Jenna Butterworth for her dedication in working in the role of Project Officer (Volunteer Program) from September 2017 to December 2018. Since December this role has been carried out by Jemma Thompson. We would also like to thank Jemma for taking on this role. Both Jenna and Jemma have had experience volunteering in Vietnam and are able to use this knowledge to support our volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering email Jemma at volunteers-tfa@trinhfoundation.org

New Baby



Congratulations to Director Dr Sarah Verdon and her partner on the safe arrival of their second child Sadie.



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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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