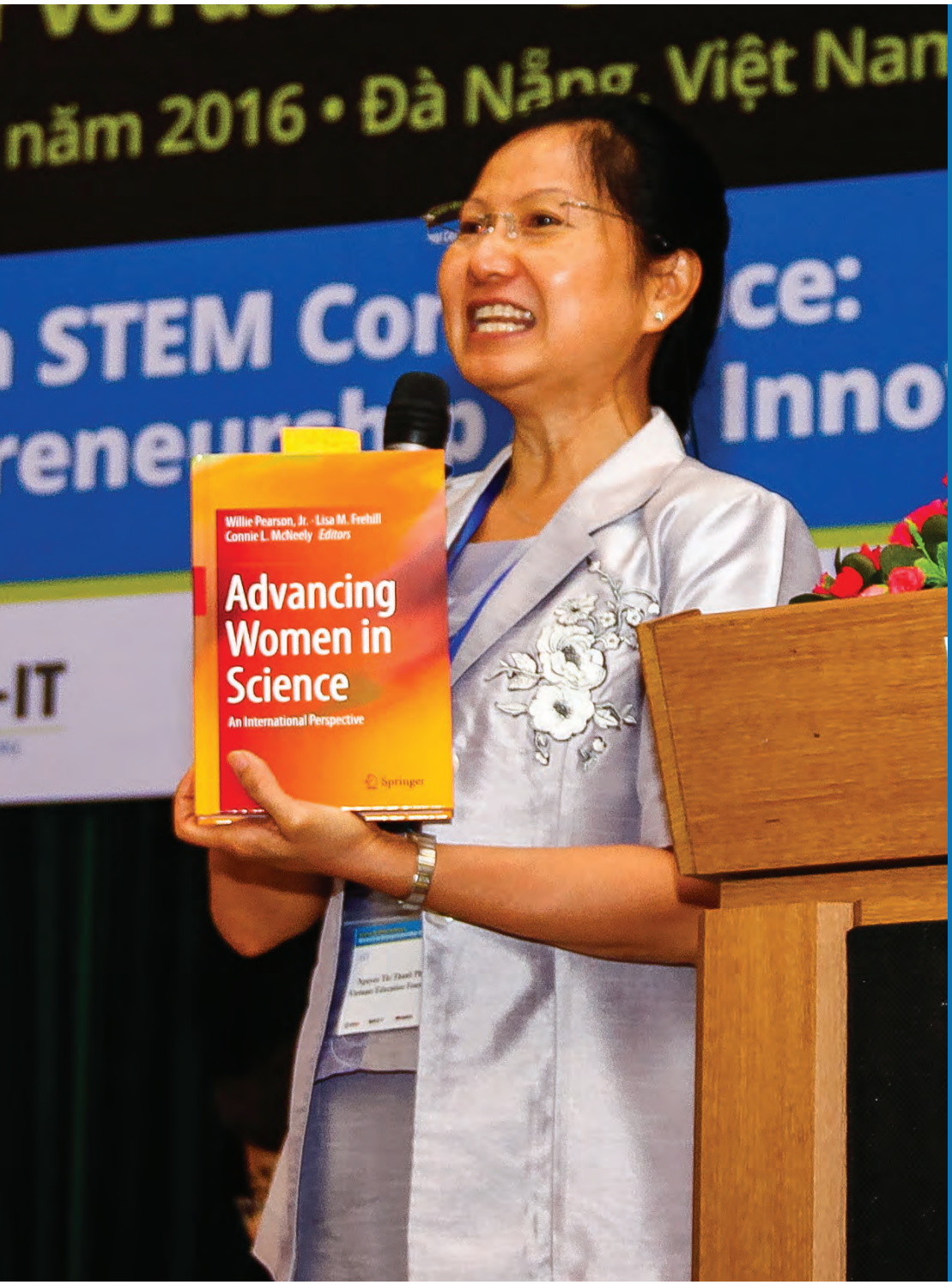
HIGHER ENGINEERING EDUCATION ALLIANCE PROGRAM

Quarterly Newsletter | October 2016



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BUILD-IT Vietnam Conference Inspires Women to Pursue STEM careers

by Terry Grant | August 20, 2016

Kathy Wigal (right), BUILT-IT project director, moderated a panel discussion with (from far left) Giang Thi Kim Lien, vice director of academic affairs, University of Danang; Kasia Weina, cofounder and managing director, Evergreen Labs; Vi Nguyen, CEO and cofounder of Funkoi, LLC; and Le Giang Nguyen, National Agency for Technology. Photo Courtesy of BUILD-IT.

A leadership conference and exhibition at the University of Danang drew several hundred attendees from across Southeast Asia as the first event in the Women in STEM Leadership Program – part of the Building University-Industry Learning and Development through Innovation and Technology Alliance. BUILD-IT, which was announced by President Barack Obama during his trip to Vietnam in June, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The conference aimed to highlight female role models, encourage the exchange of knowledge and identify paths to entrepreneurship while offering networking opportunities in a fun, interactive event. The program included keynote presentations, panel discussions and a technology and innovation exhibition sponsored by Fablab Danang.

"Our goal was to connect women in the STEM community," explained Kathy Wigal, BUILD-IT project director and associate director for Curricular Innovation at ASU. "The Forum enabled open discussions on the roles of women in the high demand professions of math, engineering, technology and science."

Wigal noted that a key component of the conference was the willingness of speakers and forum panelists, who came from both academia and industry, to share their pathways to STEM careers. "The insights they offered about their personal journeys were inspiring to a new generation of women," she said.

One compelling moment took place during the morning keynote address by Ly Le, associate professor, School of Biotechnology, International University, Vietnam University, when she was spontaneously joined on stage by her six-year-old son. Le, who built the Computational Biology Center at IU and leads an active research group in applied bioinformatics and drug design, told the audience that women do not have to choose – that there is room for family and a career in STEM.

Keynote Speaker Ly Le, associate professor, School of Biotechnology, International University, Vietnam University, was joined on stage by her son while speaking about not having to choose between a family and a STEM career. Photo courtesy of BUILD-IT.

WiSTEM, in addition to hosting an annual conference, is establishing university campus-based clubs and associated academic programs that provide female mentors and offer scholarships for women earning engineering and technical degrees. Women in Engineering Projects in Community Service, a social entrepreneurship program known as WEPICS in which teams design, build and deploy systems to solve engineering-based problems for nonprofits and schools, was kicked off during the event.

With technology and science advancing at such a rapid rate, and with the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the ASEAN Economic Community launch, many Vietnam public and private universities are encouraging women to seek educations that will prepare them for a career in STEM, acknowledging that it is more important than ever to inspire and educate women and girls to challenge the status quo and be a part of this global revolution.

"Leaders in STEM career fields will be exploring some of the most exciting realms of discovery and technological innovation and will occupy the high-tech, high-wage jobs of the future," said USAID Vietnam Mission Director Michael Greene. "As a result, increasing opportunities for women in these fields are critically important in realizing greater economic success and equality for women across the board."

The BUILD-IT Alliance, administered by HEEAP, is the latest advancement in a series of initiatives in Southeast Asia led in partnership between USAID and ASU's Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering. The Alliance links STEM instruction to the needs and capabilities of industry partners by producing graduates ready for inclusive, technology-based careers. More than 20 industry partners currently support the program. A key objective is accreditation by the ASEAN University Network in STEM areas including biotechnology, chemistry, mathematics and computer science.

To date, HEEAP has provided engineering education support and training to nearly 5,500 Vietnamese participants, 27 percent of whom are women, and has invested more than $25 million in higher education innovation. In addition, 436 female students pursuing technical education in Vietnamese vocational colleges have received scholarships, and two Women in Engineering Master's Fellows are attending ASU this fall.

Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology has achieved ABET accreditation and several Vietnamese universities have acquired AUN Quality Assurance accreditation.

"I was awed by the excitement and the number of women in the room – including several from the first all-female HEEAP cohort that I taught several years ago," said Wigal. "It is exciting to see how far we have come and the strong relationships that were created today. Having role models and mentors is a powerful force that we cannot take for granted, as evidenced by one young woman who approached our team to inquire about a doctoral program she has been dreaming about, and several others hoping to start their own businesses." ■

USAID Vietnam Mission Director Michael Greene addressed expanding opportunities for women in technology careers. Photo courtesy of USAID.

Afternoon Keynote Speaker Vu Thi Tu Anh, deputy director general, secondary education; executive director, National Foreign Language 2020 Project, MOET, spoke about the importance of "soft power" in Vietnamese culture. Photo courtesy of BUILD-IT.

Click here to view more event photos

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 16, 2016
Vocational Female Student Scholarship Award Ceremony

March 1-2, 2017
STEMCON Vietnam

May 8 - June 16, 2017
HEEAP University Cohort

July 17 - August 8, 2017
HEEAP Vocational Cohort

Government Officials from Vinh Phuc Province Visit ASU

By Khandle Hedrick | September 15 , 2016

(From far left) Khandle Hedrick, HEEAP coordinator; Do Thi Kim Dung, director, Vinh Phuc Department of Foreign Affairs; Jose Quiroga, associate director, Office of Global Outreach and Extended Education; Le Duy Thanh, vice chairman, Vinh Phuc Province People's Committee; Quynh Luu, ASU international admissions specialist; Tran Hoai Duong, vice director, Vinh Phuc Investment Promotion Agency.

On September 12, 2016, a delegation of government officials from the Vinh Phuc Province in Vietnam came to visit ASU in follow up to an MOU that was signed between the province and ASU in 2013. Since the signing of the MOU, new government officials had been elected and were delighted to discover that ASU has a very active presence in Vietnam, including a satellite office in Ho Chi Minh City.

Le Duy Thanh, Vice Chairman of the Vinh Phuc Province People's Committee, led the delegation and was accompanied by Do Thi Kim Dung, Director of the Vinh Phuc Department of Foreign Affairs, and Tran Hoai Duong, Vice Director of the Vinh Phuc Investment Promotion Agency. Though the visit was brief, it was an extremely productive day that included meetings with three of the schools within ASU and a conversation with Global Launch.

The day began with a presentation by the Associate Director of the Office of Global Outreach and Extended Education, Jose Quiroga, who went over all the projects in which ASU is currently involved in Vietnam, including introducing HEEAP and the newest project sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Building University-Industry Learning and Development through Innovation and Technology, known as BUILD-IT. Quiroga extended an invitation to Vinh Phuc officials to participate in HEEAP's Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math Conference (STEMCON) that will be held in Hanoi in March 2017.

Because the province of Vinh Phuc is prime for development, the delegation chose to meet with the College of Public Service and Community Solutions, the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, which is one of the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, and the School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning. Conversations with each school centered on how outstanding students from Vinh Phuc could be selected to participate in tailored undergraduate and graduate programs at ASU and return to Vietnam to begin to implement lasting change in their native province.

After a tour of the Tempe campus, the delegation's final meeting was with the Director of Global Launch, Julia Rosen, and James Cervin, head of Global Launch's English education initiatives in Vietnam. Le Duy Thanh emphasized that the greatest educational need in Vinh Phuc is English instruction. A plan was mapped out that included enrolling more than 200 government officials, English teachers and students in Global Launch programs within the next year.

Vinh Phuc drafted and submitted an updated MOU that is being revised to include the newly discussed ideas for partnership. Tran Hoai Duong spoke on behalf of the delegation in gratitude to ASU stating, "Thank you so much for your kind support. I do look forward to working with you in the upcoming time."

Quiroga and Cervin will be visiting Vinh Phuc in the following months to ensure the continued advancement of collaborative opportunities between the province and ASU. ■

In-Country Workshop for University in Quy Nhon, Vietnam

By Jose Quiroga | September 30, 2016

The five-day workshop was attended by more than 100 lectures, quality assurance professionals and staff from HCMUT.

During August 2016, HEEAP offered its annual in-country workshop to the Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT), which took place in the city of Quy Nhon in Vietnam. This year's theme was Quality Assurance and Curricular Innovation and was delivered by a team from ASU's Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering that included Kathy Wigal, Associate Director for Curricular Innovation; Brent Sebold, Director of the Fulton Schools Startup Center; and Scott Shrake, Director of Engineering Programs in Community Service (EPICS) program.

The five-day workshop was attended by more than 100 lecturers, quality assurance professionals and staff from HCMUT to explore topics in continuous improvement and different models to incorporate active and project-based learning activities inside and outside the classroom. The format of the workshop was designed with plenary sessions in the mornings, followed by concurrent tracks in the afternoons for more in-depth discussions on quality assurance and curricular innovation topics.

The quality assurance track, led by Wigal, included workshops on the use of tools for institutional assessment, and for the collection, analysis and evaluation of data for the continuous improvement process under ABET requirements. The curriculum innovation track was co-taught by Sebold and Shrake, and focused on developing a curricular ecosystem that provides students with multiple hands-on experiences involving industry and community based projects in sciences and engineering. Both sessions included interactive workshops where the participants were guided by the ASU experts to brainstorm and design their own processes and solutions.

For information on how HEEAP can help co-design and deliver a custom workshop in Vietnam, please contact us through our website at heeap.org. ■

Vietnamese Researchers Visit ASU to Study Entrepreneurship Network

By Jose Quiroga | September 30, 2016

ASU hosted representatives from the National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategy Studies (NISTPASS) during September 13-16, 2016. NISTPASS is a research organization under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), whose mandate is to lead the formulation of strategies, policies and mechanisms to support science and technology initiatives in Vietnam.

The delegation was comprised of Assistant Professor Hoang Minh, President; Bach Tan Sinh, Deputy-Director; and Nguyen Vo Hung, Director of the Department of Innovation Policy and Technology Market.

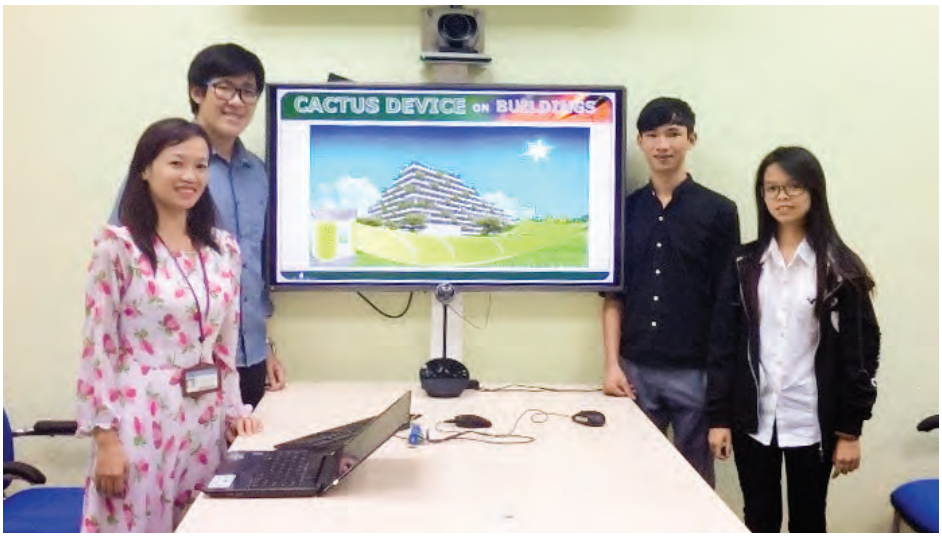
During the visit, the group studied ASU and cities in the Phoenix metropolitan area for various collaboration models that foster entrepreneurship and innovation. The delegation was hosted by Ji Mi Choi, Associate Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Programs at ASU.

The visit included meetings at the ASU-Chandler Innovation Center, a public-private partnership between the City of Chandler and ASU to foster start-ups, SME development and venture creation; a tour of Skysong, the ASU-Scottsdale Innovation Center, a business incubator and accelerator; meetings with representatives from the City of Phoenix to understand the Phoenix entrepreneurial ecosystem; and meetings with the Fulton Schools Startup Center, and the W.P. Carey School of Business Center for Entrepreneurship.

With the information gathered at ASU, NISTPASS will be presenting a proposal to MoST to develop a national strategy in Vietnam to support science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship activities that can contribute to the improvement of labor productivity in Vietnam. ■

Former HEEAP Cohort Participant Accompanies Students to International Competition

By Tam Ngo | July 28, 2016



From far left: Duong Thi Cam Tu (instructor), Phan Hoang Lan, Nguyen Huu Nghia and Ngo Thi Hong Vuong.

A project to inspire innovative technology solutions to some of Southeast Asia's most complex agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries challenges, the YSEALI World of Food Innovation Challenge, was announced in February by the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI). The competition called for participants from post-secondary technical vocational education and training institutions or universities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Ten semi-finalist teams were selected to fly to Singapore in July to participate in a boot camp-style training, hosted by Cisco and Intel Corporation, to develop their solutions. Among these teams, two were from Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education (HCMC UTE) – a HEEAP academic partner.

Duong Thi Cam Tu – a lecturer at HCMC UTE and also a former HEEAP cohort participant – is the instructor of one of those teams, CACTUS SPKT. The team's project deals with the regional challenge of increasingly limited traditional water sources, which drives people to look for new water resource methods in farming.

The team designed a device that simulates a real cactus: it absorbs mist from the air and pushes it through a cooling and condensing system to form usable water. The water can be used for drinking, or the process can be expanded and the water mixed with fertilizer to feed hydroponic vegetable gardens. Moreover, the CACTUS device applies wind energy to provide power for an internet of things controller, sensors and a mixing machine. Using the internet to monitor the system's parameters saves time, labor and operation costs.

Joining the competition as one of the youngest teams, CACTUS SPKT members are enthusiastic, diligent and eager to learn. Ngo thi Hong Vuong, who serves as project leader, is a second-year electronic engineering student at HCMC. She is noticeable not only as a female student, which is not common in a technical class, but also as a very active student in academic and social activities at school. She was a member of a university team joining the Asia-Pacific Robot Contest, known as ABU Robocon, and now team leader of CACTUS SPKT.

Sharing about the biggest challenges to the team in the YSEALI Innovation Challenge, team member Nguyen Huu Nghia said, "English is the compulsory language in this competition, but it is actually our weakness, especially when compared to other teams from areas like Malaysia and the Philippines..."

Agreeing with Nghia about language barrier, Vuong added, "English is obviously a big problem to us, but we can resort to translation tools and practice English communication more. Another difficulty, to me, is that we are still young with little specialist knowledge, while there are several teams whose members are graduate students. Luckily, we get huge support from HCMC UTE and from our instructor."

In addition to providing academic support, according to the team, Cam Tu has always motivated and lifted group spirits in depressed times and during freshmen's first trip abroad for an international workshop.

Cam Tu participated in a HEEAP faculty development training in 2011 at ASU. "The six-week training at ASU is a great experience to me, professionally and personally. After the training, my colleague and I started to build the Introduction to Engineering course which has been well received by our students," she said. "Also, thanks to HEEAP program, I became more familiar with working in an international team so now I can confidently instruct my students in competitions like YSEALI Challenge."

At the present, CACTUS SPKT is in its planning phase with the support from Cam Tu and a mentor assigned by the competition organizers. In October, three teams will be selected to pitch their solutions to representatives from the U.S. government and ASEAN officials in Cambodia. The grand prize for the winning team will be a study trip to technology hubs in the United States and a visit to Washington, D.C. in March.

"Innovation is the key to success," said Vuong about the road ahead. "I do hope that my team will go further in this YSEALI Challenge so that we can make our solution a reality and thus contribute to the society. Even if we are not chosen as top three finalists, we still win a lot from this competition. All the knowledge, skills, network we get here are precious." ■

Mini Car Racing Competition Attracts More Than 100 Students

By Tien Nguyen | July 9, 2016

The first and second place winning teams celebrate showing off the coveted victor's trophy and ribbons. The top four teams each took home a cash prize.

This summer more than a hundred students and faculty participated in the first annual Mini Car Racing Contest at Cao Thang Technical College (CTTC) in Ho Chi Minh City. Twenty two student teams built cars to run in the races – all vying for the first place prize of 5,000,000 VND. After an intense qualifying round, the 12 best teams advanced to the finals where the top four teams each took home a cash prize.

"This is the first time in Ho Chi Minh City that the Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology in Automotive has held an official contest of this kind where students can put their knowledge toward real life problems," stated Professor Nguyen Ngoc Thanh, Vice Dean of the Mechanical Engineering Department at CTTC.

The event brought students from various departments to work in teams and solve cross-disciplinary project problems.

"In this contest students have opportunities to practice and compete. Furthermore, they are able to obtain interdisciplinary experience. Specifically, automobile engineering students will understand more about the structure and principles of a car, including its engine and transmissions system; electrical and electronic engineering students will learn more about remote control; and mechanical engineering students will have chance to practice welding, wiring and CAD design," added Nguyen.

The idea for the Mini Car Racing Contest was in part brought to life by Nguyen Mau Tuan Vuong. Nguyen Mau is a professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at CTTC and a recently returned participant from a HEEAP Vocational Training at ASU. In the four week intensive program he joined other Vietnamese professors in a program designed to assure that Vietnamese graduates meet and surpass industry expectations.

After learning about the problem-based learning method at ASU, Nguyen Mau returned to his college and presented a proposal for a contest that turned out to be a winner for school administration, faculty and students. CTTC looks to grow the contest next year to include even more students and other academic institutions. ■

BUILD-IT

Building University-Industry Learning and Development through Innovation and Technology (BUILD-IT)

About Us

Based on the pillars of institutional policy, quality, curriculum, faculty innovation, and technology, BUILD-IT leverages deep and diverse government-industry-academic partners that share a goal of tightly linking science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) instruction in Vietnamese higher education institutions to the needs and capabilities of industry partners to produce graduates who can lead inclusive, technology-based growth.

- **Strengthens Higher Education Policy**
- **Enables University-Private Sector Collaboration**
- **Improving Academic Programs and Outcomes**

Our Activities

Our activities are driven by the active voice of four multi-stakeholder solutions councils, supported by a network of maker innovation labs and the HELIX web-based repository.

- **Student-industry engagement events**
- **Executive Leadership training**
- **Women in STEM mentorship programs and Leadership forums**
- **Developing Quality training**
- **Certified Facilitator programs**
- **Project-based curriculum**
- **Maker Innovation Network**
- **HELIX Portal**

For more information about BUILD-IT, our news and events, visit builditvietnam.org

Professors Restructure Classes After Returning from HEEAP Vocational Cohort

By Hung Nguyen | September 9, 2016

CTTC students in Professor Thoi Khanh Nguyen's class use a guide working in groups to draw the short cylinder turning machine.

HEEAP trained 24 professors this year in its 2016 Vocational Cohort. Each year the cohort brings Vietnamese college faculty to ASU for four weeks where they attend sessions and workshops led by ASU faculty and experts from industry. With the support of Intel and other industry leaders the program teaches the professors how to collaborate with U.S. schools in curriculum design, research and student projects to produce work-ready engineers and effectively make engineering education in Vietnam more hands-on.

Professors Thoai Khanh Nguyen from Cao Thang Technical College and Phuc Huy Nguyen from the Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City graduated from this year's HEEAP Vocational Cohort and went on to successfully apply knowledge from the program directly to their Vietnamese college classrooms.

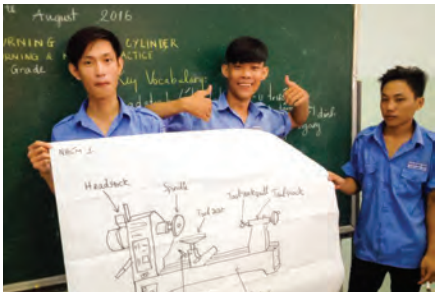
Khanh Nguyen introduced a team building activity, which he developed while training at ASU, to teach mechanical engineering students about a short cylinder turning machine. On the first day of the semester he separated his students into small groups and gave them 15 minutes to draw the machine and label its key parts in English.

Before the activity, Khanh Nguyen noted that students found it hard to focus during the lecture and wasted time on their smartphones. However, during the team building activity, all students were actively involved in the learning process.

Referring to the changes he implemented at IUH, Huy Nguyen stated, "I applied new teaching methods I learned from my HEEAP training this summer. I rebuilt my courses and added more activities in my classes."

In his first physics class of the semester, Huy Nguyen challenged his students to build the tallest structure possible using only straws, tapes and marshmallows.

"After finishing the game, I explained to them why I used this activity: to show them how to do teamwork, how to combine all the ideas together, how to make a prototype then refine it and the important thing is how to understand the task well", Huy Nguyen said. He teaches 10 classes and has restructured each one to include similar team building activities. ■



CTTC mechanical engineering students proudly show off the finished product of the team building activity.

Professor Phuc Huy Nguyen used a game known as the "Marshmallow Challenge" to encourage teamwork in his Physics class at IUH.

HEEAP Workshop Teaches the Importance of Learning Management Systems

By Cristal Ngo | September 27 , 2016

ASU Instructional Designer, Cristal Ngo Minh Ngoc, introducing LMS and its benefits in teaching and learning to DUT faculty.

HEEAP designed a one-day workshop for Danang University of Technology (DUT) that focused on training faculty to leverage Learning Management Systems (LMS) for blended learning and teaching. The workshop, which took place on September 16, 2016, was facilitated by ASU's instructional designer, Cristal Ngo, and supported by four DUT professors who completed a six-week training at ASU as a part of the HEEAP University Cohort in July 2016. More than 30 faculty members who teach in DUT's Advanced Programs participated in the workshop, which was organized by DUT's Center of Excellence at the Digital Learning Studio that was funded by Intel in 2014.

The first part of the day took participants through the planning, design and implementation process of creating a blended course. Afterwards they participated in a real-life blended format course, and concluded with a chance to create their own blended courses on DUT's LMS.

Throughout the workshop, faculty were able to experience some of the benefits LMS offers, including: creating and designing blended learning courses, managing teaching materials easily, monitoring students' progress and performance, personalizing learning for students, and providing more options for students to learn from wherever they are.

The training exercises were designed to highlight the importance of pedagogy and the design of learning activities. Various blended models and activities were introduced to give faculty new ideas for the redesign of their own courses including: face-to-face learning, online learning, readiness assessment tests (RAT) and class response systems like Kahoot and Socrative.

By the end of the training, more than half of the participants had successfully designed and created their own courses on the school's LMS. Most of the faculty in attendance aim to complete the LMS course development to be used in their classes during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Several faculty members stated that the workshop greatly helped in increasing their skill and comfort level with LMS and its application in blended learning. Most importantly, the participants realized the potential and benefits of moving toward an instructional approach that not only incorporates educational technologies, but also increases student learning, motivation and engagement. ■

Professor Le Kim Hung, Rector of DUT (far left), giving a speech on the importance of educational technology in teaching and learning

DUT faculty designing their own blended courses with support from ASU's instructional designer.

Recapping HEEAP University and Vocational Cohorts in 2016

By David Benson | September 29 , 2016

David Benson (third from left), gives input as faculty from the HEEAP University Cohort design a wearable electronic solution for emergency response during a natural disaster.

During the summer of 2016, two cohorts of engineering professors from Vietnam participated in workshops on outcomes-based assessment and active learning techniques at ASU.

For the vocational faculty workshop, faculty members came from the three universities in Ho Chi Minh City: Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City, Cao Thang Technical College and the Ho Chi Minh Vocational College of Technology. The faculty members for the university workshop came from five different universities across Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Danang University of Technology, Ho Chi Minh University of Technical Education, Can Tho University and Hanoi University of Science and Technology.

During the workshop faculty learned about different pedagogies and teaching philosophies, centering on Bloom's Taxonomy, Kolb's Learning Styles and Experiential Learning Cycle, as well as a number of different techniques for engaging students. These approaches were used by the faculty to both analyze their own teaching methods and approaches and to intentionally organize and structure future units.

Both of the workshops participated in units on "Integrating Professional (Soft) Skills" where faculty members developed activities such as scripts and videos to use as "entry events" in a flipped classroom. These videos were developed to engage students by exploring practical applications of the content and providing a shift in responsibility for content at the Knowledge and Understanding levels of Bloom's Taxonomy. In this unit on professional skills, faculty members also developed Content and Language Integrated Learning units to teach their technical subjects through the English language.

A central element of this year's workshops was a unit on the engineering design process and problem/project-based learning where the faculty developed wearable electronics solutions to a design problem. This project is similar to what can be accomplished in an undergraduate introduction to engineering design course and involves both technical skills (programming, circuit construction) as well as human-centered design principles (ideation, client profiling and interviewing). The faculty members constructed wearable systems for use during a disaster relief simulation and experienced the design project from a student perspective. A large portion of the project time was spent teaching faculty members about how to teach teamwork to undergraduate students.

At the end of the university workshop, faculty members participated in a robotics workshop with Yinong Chen using VI/PLE, a visual internet of things/robotics programming language environment developed at ASU. The faculty members programmed robots to navigate a maze using a simple and easy to use process oriented interface.

During their training the cohort learned valuable lessons that would not only benefit their own classes, but also serve to transform education at their institutions and in their country as a whole. In the time since the workshop, faculty members have been posting on social media examples of the activities and methods they have introduced in their own courses as a result of the workshop. ■

Q&A with Published Author Focused on Young Women in STEM

September 25 , 2016

Huong Nguyen (second from left) with international participants and colleagues at ASEE's 123rd Annual Conference in New Orleans.

Huong Nguyen is a young woman actively promoting STEM education in Vietnam through her work at ASU. Recently, she co-authored a paper with ASU's Scott Danielson and Kathy Wigal that was reviewed by the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE). Her paper, "Comparison of AUN-QA and ABET Accreditation," was published in the proceedings of the ASEE's 123rd Annual Conference and Exposition. HEEAP had the opportunity to interview Nguyen and find out more about this outstanding achievement and the significance of being recognized by the ASEE.

Q: What inspired you to write and submit a paper to the ASEE?

A: I worked with Scott Danielson and Kathy Wigal under the Vocational and University Leadership and Innovation Institute (VULII) project to support our partner schools in preparing for international recognition, including AUN-QA assessment and ABET accreditation. From our work, we realized that a comparative analysis on these two organizations and sets of criteria would be beneficial for the universities, both those who are participating in the project and those who are not.

Q: Can you tell us more about the conference where your paper was published?

A: ASEE's 123nd Annual Conference and Exposition was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 26-29, 2016. It is an internationally known engineering conference that is dedicated to all disciplines of engineering education. I did a presentation on this paper at the conference in a session run by the International Division.

This was the first time I attended a conference of such large scale. I was very impressed with the active and innovative engagement of academia, industry and government in engineering education in the United States, particularly through the professional and technical societies. I found the town hall meetings where peers and colleagues voiced their opinions to help shape the future of engineering education very inspiring. It was definitely an eye opening experience for me.

Q: What was the hardest part about writing this paper?

A: I received a lot of support and guidance from Scott Danielson when writing the paper, so it was an enjoyable process rather than a hard one. To me, presenting the paper in front of an international audience was a big challenge.

Q: Do you have plans to continue to author ASEE papers?

A: My colleagues and I are planning on our next submission for ASEE, which would also have a regional/international focus in quality assurance.

Q: Can you tell us a little about your educational and professional background?

A: I have a bachelor's degree in business administration from International University - VNU HCMC, and a master's degree in cross-cultural communication and education from Newcastle University in the United Kingdom. I spent a few years in the corporate world before switching to education. The combined experience in these fields has started to excite me as I gradually realize the many common things that business and education share.

Q: As far as your education and career goes, who would you say has been the most influential person in your life?

A: My father has always been the most influential person in my life. He is a doctor and he has spent all his life helping and saving people. His wisdom and his unlimited desire to learn, to understand the root cause of a problem from different perspectives, has influenced how I think and act.

Q: What are some other aspirations you have for the future?

A: I hope to see a better developed higher education system in Vietnam in the near future, so that every Vietnamese citizen can be worry-free when sending his or her children to local schools, and local graduates are well equipped to work or continue their studies – both in-country and abroad. I do think that we have good human resources who are capable of doing this. I am looking forward to seeing significant changes and development in Vietnamese higher education system in the upcoming years.

STEMCON

SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING-MATH
CONFERENCE IN VIETNAM | MARCH 1 & 2, 2017

Hanoi, Vietnam /HEEAP /WeAreHEEAP #STEMCONVietnam

Registration is Now Open for the 2017 Conference

Due to an overwhelmingly positive surge in attendance at HEEAP's conference last year, registration for STEMCON 2017 in Hanoi is limited and will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis only. The registration deadline is quickly approaching. Secure your spot in the conference by registering online today.

Register Today at
stemcon.heeap.org/registration

We are currently accepting Abstract Submissions

We want to recognize what you as a faculty member have done to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Math in your educational institution. Chosen abstracts will be published in the conference proceedings and will set the bar as to what STEM education looks like in Southeast Asia.

Submit an Abstract at
stemcon.heeap.org/abstracts

Brought to you by the Higher Engineering Education Alliance Program (HEEAP).
For more conference information visit stemcon.heeap.org.