



Trinh Foundation

AUSTRALIA

Newsletter



Newly appointed Coordinator Clinical Education, Janella Christie with Marie

News from Course Coordinator Ms Marie Atherton

Xin chao again! from HCMC where Year 2 of the Speech Therapy Training Program has commenced and Vietnamese everywhere are celebrating 'Tet Trung Thu' or as Westerners know it, the Mid Autumn Moon Festival. This festival is said to have originated when parents, who had spent many hours in the fields during harvest time, wished to make up for lost time with their children. With the support and encouragement of their parents, children parade the streets while singing and carrying colourful lanterns. It is also a time for eating 'moon cakes' filled with a host of ingredients such as pork, chicken, coconut and green tea...absolutely delicious.

But I digress. Year 2 of the Speech Therapy Program has now commenced after what can only be described as an extremely rewarding and successful first year. All 18 students successfully completed Year 1 of the Program, having attended lectures and tutorials, participated in clinical education sessions and undertaken written and oral examinations. Numerous assignments and group projects were also completed and the caliber of these projects and the results of the students reflect the wealth of talent and

The Directors of TFA would like to thank all volunteer lecturers and clinical educators for their vital contribution to the Speech Therapy Training Course.

commitment that has been shown by the students from Day 1 of the program. It is indeed a privilege to work with such a wonderful group of students.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to the volunteer clinicians who came to HCMC in Term 4 to provide supervision to the students in their workplaces. Lynette Rule, Leonie Martin, Martha Karagiannis, Kim Thien, Amanda Dwyer and Molly Kallasen (our first non-Australian volunteer) were all here at similar times throughout May-July and it was fabulous that they had the opportunity not only to debrief as a group, but to experience what HCMC had to offer.

In June it was wonderful to welcome Janella Christie to HCMC and to the Speech Therapy Program. Janella is here for 12 months as a result of another successful collaboration with AVI and she has assumed the role of Coordinator of the Clinical Education component of the program. It is fabulous that there are now 2 of us "on the ground", not only sharing and developing ideas, but also sharing the experience of living in HCMC. Janella brings with her a wealth of clinical experience and expertise, which will be a tremendous asset to the program.

In June, Dr Nhan from PNTU and I attended the Speech Pathology Australia National Conference in Darwin. It was wonderful to spend time with my Australian speech pathology colleagues and to introduce Dr Nhan to Australia and to the profession of speech pathology. I think it would be fair to say we both had a wonderful time in Darwin! Following the conference, we headed to Melbourne, where in far chillier conditions than we were both used to, we visited Melbourne and LaTrobe Universities where once again Dr Nhan was able to see how speech therapy programs are

conducted in Australia.

I have been fortunate to be invited to speak about the work being done here at the ASHA Conference in November in San Diego – an invaluable opportunity to showcase the achievements of the program and the students. My thanks are extended to all who have made this trip possible and I look forward to writing about my experiences at the conference in the next TFA newsletter.

And so, Year 2 of the Program has commenced, with many lecturers and clinicians once again arriving over the next few months. It no doubt will be as busy a Term as previous ones, and also extremely stimulating and challenging. I think it will also be a different Term to previous ones, with Janella here as part of the team and all the positives that will stem from that. I have a feeling that time will fly now and before I know it, I'll be writing about the pending graduation of the first cohort of speech therapy students in Vietnam. An amazing thought! But until then, there is much to be done, and I look forward to being in touch as Year 2 unfolds.

National Speech Pathology Conference in Darwin June 2011

By Vo Hoang Nhan, MD, GaMBA

The collaboration between Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine, the ENT Hospital of HCMC and Trinh Foundation Australia has given birth to the development of a clinical medical specialty seen for the first time in Vietnam: speech pathology.

Indeed, this is an area that is quite specialised and narrow in the wider field of ENT with quite significant specific and expert knowledge. Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine is very proud to be the first place in Vietnam to run a post-graduate training course for health departments from Hue to the South, with 18 students who are doctors and bachelors from other health

disciplines .

With its pioneering attitude to training and audacity in applying new biomedical technological developments to meet the people's health care needs, Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine is always dedicated to international cooperation to develop the latest practices. The first "Speech Pathology" course (2010-2012), developed with the support of the organisation TFA, is a testament to this.

The course has passed the half-way mark, but the results and benefits that the students have seen has already exceeded all our hopes and expectations. This is truly a major encouragement for those of us who have been involved in the development of the program since its infancy.

Moreover, between 26 June and 5 July 2011, with the permission of the authorities of HCMC and the financial support of TFA, a representative from Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine attended the Australian Speech Pathology conference in the beautiful city of Darwin and visited training facilities at the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University. This trip has been a notable milestone for those who are responsible for developing this program in Vietnam. We will use the knowledge we have collected from this trip to continue our promotion and implementation of these training courses so that they will grow stronger still, both in terms of quality and quantity.

University of Queensland—Speech Pathology and Audiology Students Association (SPASA)

Fundraising for Trinh Foundation Australia

Thank you to Anastasia Fife (President of SPASA), Melissa Cook, Dana Pearce, Alison Moorcroft, and Alizah Azul for running a Bake Sale. This was held to both raise funds as well as increase awareness of Trinh Foundation Australia. A great effort girls as they raised \$167.70.



Dr Nhan with Chris Stone, President of Speech Pathology Australia at the National Speech Pathology Conference in Darwin



**University of Queensland -(SPASA) Bake Sale
L-R: Anastasia Fife, Melissa Cook, Dana Pearce,
Alison Moorcroft and Alizah Azul (Inset)**



Dr Thanh works with Hoai, who lives at the centre

Spotlight on a Course Participant **Le thi Thanh**

My name is Le thi Thanh and I am a paediatrician. I have worked for 25 years at the Center of Rehabilitation and Support for Handicapped Children which is located at the 38 Tu Xuong street, District 3, HCM City, Vietnam.

The Center receives all kinds of disabled children for rehabilitating their functions including from mild to severe cerebral palsy children, those with autism and children with mental retardation. We often work with children having severe difficulties in feeding and/or speech sound disorders.

Beyond this responsibility, we also organize short training courses for staff of social centres of the 32 southern provinces. At those centres there are numerous disabled children needing rehabilitating in speech therapy. Therefore, I have participated in the Speech Therapy Course to become a trainer.

So far, with the help of the supervisors from Australia, I have applied the knowledge to some children at my centre and they have got improvement in feeding and speech, in some cases I have got success quickly which has made me happy and surprised.

In our country, speech therapy is a new branch of health, and a lot of patients need the intervention of speech therapists, so I hope at the completion of the course, I can perform the proper process of assessment and management for disabled children. I will then organize courses to transfer the knowledge and techniques of Speech Therapy to people who work with disabled children to allow these children to have a better life.

Insight to Volunteering in Vietnam **By Lyn Rule**

The opportunity to support speech pathology students in Vietnam came to me almost by accident.

I had been looking for an opportunity to do some volunteer work abroad but wanted something that

would be more than helping children for a few weeks. A friend told me about the work the Trinh Foundation were doing in Vietnam, supporting overseas speech pathologists to work with students in Vietnam to enable them to gain the clinical supervision they needed to become qualified speech pathologists. This meant an opportunity to be a part of something that would hopefully make a long term sustainable difference.

My experience in the area of physical and intellectual disability made me a good match for supporting Dr Thanh at the Centre of Rehabilitation and Support for Handicapped Children in HCMC. I was able to share my experience with her and together we worked with a number of the children, mostly to improve their feeding but a few with speech difficulties as well. Dr Thanh has an important role at the centre and, gaining knowledge as a speech pathologist, will enable her to assist the children in her care with their communication and the ability to eat and drink safely.

For me the opportunity flew me to a country and culture I knew very little of and provided me with an interesting, exciting and sometimes challenging two weeks in a city with more motor bikes than I had ever seen before. My journey to Vietnam gave me some understanding of the complexities of starting the speech pathology profession in a developing country and also appreciate the skills, knowledge and expertise that we have in this country. It was a privilege to be a part of the growth of speech pathologists in Vietnam and I thank the Trinh Foundation for their support.



Dr Thanh working with young client at the Center of Rehabilitation and Support for Handicapped Children while under supervision of Lyn Rule (inset)



Thank you to all those who continue to provide support in the form of funds, expertise and resources. This on-going support is vital to our program. For further information about how you can help us please see our website

www.trinhfoundation.org

Supervisors and Students in Action



Clinical Supervisor Kim Thien works with a student from Children's Hospital Number One, to assist a child with feeding problems



Kim Thien with students at Children's Hospital Number One



Clinical Supervisor Martha Karagiannis treating a 14 year old boy



Students Miss Duyen and Dr Cuong with Clinical Supervisor Amanda Dwyer



Clinical Supervisor Molly Kallaseen with students Ms Hien and Dr Thao



Martha Karagiannis working with students (above) and assisting an adult patient and trialling a mobile phone as a communication device (below)



Miss Duyen a student on the course working under direction of Amanda Dwyer at ENT Hospital



Students working with patients at ENT Hospital



How can you help us?

For all donations please see our website
www.trinhfoundation.org

Trinh Foundation Australia is proud to be a partner of Global Development Group (Vietnam Speech-Language Program Project JS94). GDG is an Australian Non Government Organisation [NGO] carrying out humanitarian projects with approved partners and providing aid to relieve poverty and provide long term solutions through the provision of quality aid and development projects.

For more information about Global Development Group, (ABN 57 102 400 993), visit www.globaldevelopment.org.au