

BA MENTORING LUNCH: WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL 2014

Dear AMA Donors and Friends,

On 16 April 2014, eight members of AMA (Peter, Natalie, Sylvie, Vy, Hương, Tùng, Tuấn and Châu) hosted our inaugural BA Mentoring Lunch for 22 of our BA recipients from the class of 2012 and 2013. We invited 4 experienced teachers from local Vietnamese schools to offer advice to our recipients during the luncheon. We were also joined by 2 staff members of the University of Education of Ho Chi Minh City (Miss Hương and the Vice Principal Mr. Nghĩa), who have been offering firm support to AMA since the very beginning. The luncheon took place at Đồng Khánh Hotel in District 5, which was fairly near the university. Each AMA member sat with the group of recipients he/she selected during the interviewing process last year, which would allow for continuity in relationship building and group bonding over time.

The 4 teachers were Miss Đài, Mr. Tùng, Miss Hiếu, and Miss Thủy. They were brilliant in sharing their stories and also effective in engaging our recipients at each of the 4 tables. For example, Miss Thủy with 17 years of teaching experience told our recipients how she handled a difficult situation involving her student who was also the son of the principal of her school. How the teacher had to discipline this student who had misbehaved while addressing the conflict-of-interest concern and simultaneously maintaining respect from the rest of the class was the lesson behind this story, a lesson that often cannot be learned in the classroom of any university. Prior to the lunch, AMA's Natalie Pham also came up with a list of the questions for these 4 teachers to contemplate and to share their answers with our recipients:

1. *How did you get to where you are today?*
2. *What qualities do you look for in the people you hire as teachers?*
3. *What do you like most about your teaching career?*
4. *What characteristics set you apart from your peers and enabled you to be successful today?*
5. *What are your challenges and how did you overcome them?*

After the luncheon, we also solicited feedback from some students. Here are a few comments:

Võ Nguyễn Hoàng Việt: *"Firstly, I want to say thank you (AMA members, teachers and the donors) for giving me such a nice time. I found it really significant. It helped me feel closer to everyone, giving me the feeling like I'm at home that we always miss. Also, the Mentor lunch itself gives me the opportunity to learn more about life and career orientation. I feel lucky as I've got the scholarship that supports my study and encourages me to study harder and overcome difficulties. To me, the Mentor lunch was just perfect! Although we were shy, next time we'll try not to be."*

Trần Thị Anh: *"It was friendly and warm. I had a chance to know other people's experiences. That made me happy! Thank you all."*

Trần Thị Mai Thi: *"It was a pretty fun lunch. Everyone was friendly and shared a lot of useful experiences."*

Please enjoy the photos and captions in the following two pages. Thank you for your support.



Above: A group photo of our inaugural BA Mentoring Lunch on 16 April 2014 at Đồng Khánh Hotel in District 5. We thank you for everyone's support.



Above: Peter and Tuyền had a photo taken with some recipients. From left to right: Tuyền, Anh, Thành, Thu, Tuyền, Thùy, Phong, Peter.



Above: This was table #1 with Miss Hiếu (on the right in black shirt) offering her advice to our recipients. She has 10 years of teaching experience. Left to right: Tâm, Như and Hà, Miss Hiếu.



Above: This was table #2 with Miss Thủy sharing her words of wisdom with our recipients, drawing on her 17 years of teaching experience. Left to right: Hà, Miss Thủy, Anh and Nga.



Above: This was table #3 hosted by AMA's Tuyền and Vy. The teacher Miss Đài is sitting in bottom left, wearing green/yellow Áo Dài dress.



Above: This was table #4 with the teacher Mr. Tuyền in white shirt, together with AMA's Sylvie on his left and Hương on his right.



Above: Our guest teacher Miss Thủy, Vice Principal Mr. Nghĩa from the University of Education, and guest teacher Miss Hiếu.



Above: Miss Hương from the University and AMA's Natalie took a group photo with their group of recipients. Left to right: Nhơn, Hà, Miss Thủy, Thi, Hoàng, Natalie, Miss Hương, Anh and Nga.



Above: AMA's Sylvie took a group photo with the recipients she selected in 2013. Left to right: Trần, Sylvie, Uyên, Hường, Phượng and Nga.



Above: AMA's Tùng with scholarship recipient Hà taking a photo after the luncheon.



Above: The recipients were listening intently to what teacher Miss Thủy was sharing with them. Left to right: Hoàng, Nhơn, Thi.



Above: We thank Mr. Nghĩa for the University's support before saying our goodbyes to everyone. Left to right: Peter, Việt, Hà, Miss Hiếu, Tâm, Như and Mr. Nghĩa.