

The Vietnamese Pharmacists Association in the USA

Report of the 2005 Tet Celebration

It was a beautiful New Year Celebration organized by the VPhA-USA in Anaheim on February 20, 2005 for 260 members, family and guests at the Seafood Kingdom in Anaheim, California. The event took place one week after the customary first Sunday after Tet, for pharmacists and pharmacy students from the University of Southern California (USC) and Western University of the Health Sciences (WUHS) to participate in the Health Fair organized by the Vietnamese American Pharmacy Student Association (VAPSA) on February 12-13, 2005.

The Celebration started at 12:00 PM with formal salutes to the flags and one minute of silence to the memory of colleagues and members who have passed away during the year. Masters of ceremonies were pharmacists Thuy Lan Tran and Thanh D. Mai who entertained the audience with witty remarks during the program.

Immediate past president Hieu Tran delivered the welcome and reviewed the major achievements in 2004. The new president Man Nguyen introduced the Board of Directors, and presented a token of appreciation to Mr. Hieu Tran. The yearly New Year Book (Dac San Tet 2005) was completed in time for distributing to attendees, thanks to the efforts of Thuy Lan, Thang Chu and other collaborators from the publication committee.

Dr. Dong To, former Dean of the Saigon Pharmacy School, was invited to the podium. Dr To recently published a book of Memories of a life-time dedicated to work and research. Impressions of the book were given by Dr. Thuy Le, Senior Researcher at the UCSD School of Medicine, and long-time friend and former co-founder of VPhA-USA. A number of copies of the book were brought to the meeting, with proceeds going to the association's funds.

Dr. David Adler, Professor at the UCSD School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences gave an overview of the School, with expanded student body for the next school year. Dr. Adler and the faculty from the University of California at San Francisco School of Pharmacy have been instrumental in the training program for Vietnamese pharmacy graduates in the mid 1980's.

Dr. Robb McGory, Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, College of Pharmacy at WUHS reported the achievements of the Vietnamese students at WUHS, and expressed his feelings about a bright future for the graduates. The mid-career PharmD program for graduates from abroad has enrolled a Vietnamese student who is doing very well. Colleagues interested in the program are invited to apply now for the fall semester.

Several former Professors from the Saigon School of Pharmacy were also attending the event, as with previous years.

The entertaining program coordinated by Dr Ai Nguyen was started lively with the group song Toasting Cup – Ly Ru+o+.u Mu+`ng, with the audience singing together. Solos and

duos followed, performed by pharmacists and professionals from different areas of practice, mingling young and mature generations: Thuy An, Kim Cuc, Quynh Liem, Cuong Truong. Viet Truong and Lan Anh from San Diego joined in with songs for the occasion. Professional singers were also present: Anh Dung, along with composer-singer Dieu Huong.

A distinctive feature of this year's celebration was the performance of nine year-old Dan Vy, who excelled in beautiful dances showcasing Vietnamese customs and beliefs during the first days of the year. She artfully depicted the calligrapher drawing verses of wishes to ornate houses and altars, and a young maiden's visit to the temple for good luck.

Dragon dances and sword dances completed the revisits with old traditions. An ao dai (Vietnamese dress) contest was coordinated by Giang Huong and Hang Tran for 14 children aged under twelve. Among the three winners was Mr Hieu's six month old grand-daughter.

Raffle prizes of cash and presents were provided by Cardinal and Amerisource-Bergen and other sponsors, with Thanh Mai and Thang Chu holding the guests until the last minute.

This celebration was one of the most successful in terms of organization, variety and quality of the program. From pharmacists to colleagues in the health or allied professions, to family and guests, all came with a positive spirit to support the VPhA-USA in a new chapter for the generations of pharmacists residing in all areas.

We express our sincere appreciation to the Professors, Colleagues, Family and Guests for their presence at the event. We would like to specially thank Dr. Sam Shimomura, Associate Dean at WUHS, for securing Continuing Education credit through ACPE for the Pharmacy Program at the 5th International Convention of Vietnamese Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists in the Free World, December 28-30, 2004 in Sydney, Australia,. Dr. Shimomura has also sent a gift for the raffle drawings.

Students from the VAPSA - USC have prepared a binder of their activities. Copies were distributed to attendees.

Reported by Binh Nhung Tran, Pharm.D.
Vice-President for Professional Development
VPhA-USA

Present at the Meeting:

Former Professors from the Saigon School of Pharmacy:

Dr Nguyen van Duong
Dr Nguyen van Trang
Dr Truong Manh Khai
Dr To Dong
Dr Nguyen Hiep

Professors from California Schools of Pharmacy

Dr David Adler (UCSD School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)

Dr Robb McGory (Western University of the Health Sciences School of Pharmacy, Pomona)

VPhA-USA Board Members:

Man Thuc Nguyen, R.Ph., M.S., President

Thu-Hang Tran, Pharm.D., Vice-President for Internal Affairs

Binh-Nhung Tran, Pharm.D., Vice-President for Professional Development

Dao Mong Tran, Pharm.D., Vice-President for External Affairs

Thang Tat Chu, Pharm.D., General Secretary

Van Bich Nghiem, R.Ph., Treasurer

Hieu Duc Tran, R.Ph., Immediate Past President

Anh Kim Bui, Pharm.D., Membership Committee

Thuy Lan Tran, R.Ph., Newsletters and Publications Committee

Ai Duy Nguyen, Ph.D., Entertainment Committee

Thanh Dong Mai, Sports and Events Committee

Bao Son Xuan Nghiem, Social Activities Committee

Absent:

Khiet Bui, R.Ph., B.O.D. member

Nang Duc Nguyen, R.Ph., B.O.D. Member

Tung van Vu, R.Ph., B.O.D. Member

Vietnamese American Pharmacy Student Association at USC

Elizabeth Truong, Co-President

Alexander Duong, Co-President

An-Khang Tran, Immediate Past President

and Members

San Diego Vietnamese Pharmacists Association

Viet Thuc Truong, Pharm.D., President

Dat Le, R.Ph., Member

Ngoc Ha Le, R.Ph., Member

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