

### **Thank You to Our Donors!**

Firstly, we wholeheartedly want to thank our donors for their generous support in our inaugural year in 2013 as a non-profit institution. We raised a good amount of money in a short time and appreciate every single dollar pledged to AMA on behalf of your scholarships for the class of 2013.

Your donations will support at least another 32 scholarships for the class of 2013 (indicatively divided into 22 BA's, 6 MA's, 4 PhD's). Together with 15 existing recipients from the class of 2012, AMA will have supported a total of 47 recipients by the end of the year at the University of Education in Ho Chi Minh City (32 BA's, 9 MA's, 6 PhD's).

We are proud to have friends such as you who believe in us and also in the power of giving. Your kindness motivates not only the students and teachers, but also us at AMA to work harder on your behalf to make a difference in the world.

### **Our Growing Team:**

In the past few months, we have been dedicating more time and energy to building sufficient infrastructure and human resources to support our growing efforts. Our goal is to focus on quality over quantity at this initial stage, thus our attention on establishing a solid foundation for the future.

At this point, our team has grown to 8 people. Singapore team is composed of Peter Mach, Claire Ngo, Ashwin Ranganathan, Shirley Kim, and Sophia Woo. Vietnam team has Nguyen Quynh Huong, Tuan Vinh Ho, and Natalie Pham.

We welcome and thank Shirley Kim for giving us her time. Shirley is acting as our internal legal counsel while also helping in other areas.

We are also happy to have Natalie Pham join us in Saigon. Natalie is a veteran educator in Vietnam with a PhD degree in education from the USA. We also plan on hiring a person in Vietnam to give us logistical and administrative support.

### **AMA is Registered!**

AMA Vietnam Ltd is now legally registered as a non-profit organization in Singapore in the form of a company limited by guarantee, which is a legal structure commonly used by NPO's here. Per local regulations, our company will meet financial reporting and auditing requirements annually. We do not have shareholders nor take salaries nor pay dividends to anyone.

We will be considering pro-bono office spaces from kind friends who run businesses in Singapore (and perhaps in Vietnam later). AMA currently has 3 registered Directors and 2 Members in Singapore.



### **Training Program Successfully Launched!**

Apart from offering financial assistance to our recipients, we are also trying to find more ways to deepen our impact on the quality of teaching and the lives of these teachers in Vietnam. Training on effective teaching is critically important and we are fortunate to have Miss Natalie Pham spearhead this effort for us. Natalie has been training teachers for quite some time already in Vietnam, where she also works as a Director of Research and Development at an excellent non-profit high school in Ho Chi Minh City.

In early June, Natalie (see above photo, furthest left) kicked off our training program for the class of 2012 AMA recipients in Saigon. We thank her and her school for giving us the time and the campus facilities for training. It was a big success based on the excellent feedback from our University of Education and the prospective teachers who attended. In fact, the university has asked Natalie to expand the training program on their campus.

The training program ran for 9 days (June 3 to 13<sup>th</sup>) to cover different areas of effective teaching in Vietnamese for our recipients: (1) Classroom Management: Foundations for a great classroom management, rules and procedures, techniques; (2) Classroom Management: First day of school essentials, record keeping; (3) Multiple Intelligences; (4) Bloom's Taxonomy; (5) Rubrics; (6) Effective Teaching: Criteria 1-2; (7) Effective Teaching: Criteria 3-4; (8) Effective Teaching: Criteria 5-6; Watch demo and evaluate; (9) Learning Centers; Use of Portfolios.

If you are interested, we can send you the course materials and/or the YouTube video for the training program!

Networking Events for our Recipients:

After a number of meetings and interviews done with teachers who are already teaching at a local school and who are also alumni of our partner University of Education, we thought of another way to help our scholarship recipients/teachers. We plan on designing events (e.g. social gatherings) where our recipients can meet and learn from these alumni teachers who are already in the field. These alumni teachers know what it takes to be a good teacher and how to find a job after school. As a result, they can offer valuable advice to our graduating teachers and effectively act as informal advisors/mentors.

What is exciting is that these alumni teachers are eager to work with us to help in any way they can. In the coming months, we will be exploring ways to involve these alumni teachers with our recipients going forward, e.g. quarterly social gatherings for them to build relationships.

See two photos on the right hand side of a few teachers Father Agliardo and I met during our recent trip to Vietnam. They were very impressive people and helped us learn a tremendous amount about the current educational environment. Father Michael Agliardo, who is a professor of sociology at the Loyola University in Chicago, recently flew to Vietnam with Peter to understand our work on the ground. We thank him for his time and valuable feedback.



Thank You Note from our recipient Tran Xuan Ngoc, 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Mathematics:

*"AMA scholarship is helping me to reduce my financial burden. It allows me to concentrate more on the most important aspect of school learning. It also gives me more motivations to study harder and harder. Further, thanks to AMA scholarship organization, I had the opportunity to attend the workshops to training and offering resources to teacher in Dinh Thien Ly School, which were trained by Ms. Natalie Pham. That workshop provided me with a lot of useful knowledge and experience for my future job. Thanks to AMA scholarship, I am more steps closer to my goal, which is to become an effective teacher in the future.*

*In September, I will start the second year in school. I'm sure that I will study hard to achieve good result. After graduation, I want to teach Math in disadvantaged areas like my hometown to help education develop there.*

*I really hope AMA scholarship will continue to help me and other poor students who plan to pursue a career in education. It's great and we appreciate the help, as it is not only financial support but also the support about professional knowledge."*

*We are proud to learn that one of our recipients (Dao Thi Binh) was ranked #1 in southern Vietnam after taking the National Examination for Russian Studies. The Russian government awarded her a 5-year scholarship to study in Russia.*



**Next Steps:**

1. We will alert our donors on money collection after we finish opening bank accounts for our company in the coming days.
2. We will inform the school about the number of new scholarships we will support in 2013 and start selection work soon after.
3. We will notify donors the date of the award ceremony in HCM City (around Nov 20th).

Contacts: Peter Mach ([peter@amafoundation.co](mailto:peter@amafoundation.co))  
Claire Ngo ([claire@amafoundation.co](mailto:claire@amafoundation.co))