

### “Class of the Fearless” 2024:

#### A new chapter begins for Fulbright’s brave new graduates

Ho Chi Minh City, June 8, 2024 – A memorable graduation ceremony was held for 128 new graduates of Fulbright University Vietnam at the Saigon South Marina Club (SSMC). This ceremony celebrated the achievements and remarkable journeys of the Class of 2024 - a cohort that commenced their studies at Fulbright when the Fulbright Undergraduate Program just entered its second year with special milestones. They endured two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, confronting unprecedented challenges in their educational pursuits and personal growth. Throughout this, they learned to be resilient, to grow, and to thrive amidst adversity. We proudly refer to the new Bachelors of the class of 2024 as “Class of the Fearless”.

#### *A pioneering generation for positive contributions and social impacts*

In this Class of 2024, 26 students graduated with Distinction and 35 students with Capstone Honors, with many individuals making impactful contributions and achieving notable results in social projects, entrepreneurship, professional development, and academic pursuits.

Nguyen Duy Hieu, who majored in Integrated Sciences focusing on Biology and Neuroscience and minored in Psychology, was accepted into PhD programs at two leading universities in the United States: the Neuroscience program at Stony Brook University and the Physiology & Neuroscience program at the University of Connecticut.

Tran Viet Hoang and Tran Hoan Nhi with HNVision – an AI-based mobile application aimed at supporting visually impaired people to actively operate household appliances in the house. Starting from Hoang’s experiences as a blind Computer Science student trying to navigate his surroundings, he and Nhi developed an application that allows blind users to control devices using features such as photo and video recording, voice commands, touch input, and fingerprint recognition, all designed to enable easy and effective interaction.

Pham Hoang Lan, a student in Human-centered Engineering and serving as the Project Lead, brought forth a practical initiative to address food scarcity during the COVID-19 pandemic – the Hearty Plant. This is an automatic hydroponic growing solution,



designed to enhance urban agriculture through innovative technology: Plants are initially nurtured outdoors, then transferred to a system that mixes nutrients with a circulating pump, and utilizes sensors to adjust light and humidity for optimal growth. In the future, the project aims to gather and adjust data using artificial intelligence to enhance its efficiency. Lân has been awarded a scholarship for a Master's program in Embedded Systems Foundations of Cyber-Physical Systems and the Internet of Things at the University of California, Irvine, USA.



*Phạm Hoàng Lân introduces the Hearty Plant project at a social impact exhibition.*

During the commencement ceremony, Mr. Bui Quang Minh, Chairman of Beta Group, commended the graduates of Fulbright University's Class of 2024. "The graduates are incredibly fortunate and truly exceptional," stated Mr. Minh. He emphasized the significance of their achievements as both a personal triumph and a symbol of the enduring friendship between Vietnam and the United States. Shark Minh highlighted the unique advantages available to the graduates: "They are at a 'Sweet Spot'—privileged to live in a peaceful country, armed with a world-class education, and entering an era of explosive technological progress." He encouraged them to leverage their unique skills, passions to find their personal "sweet spot" by serving society's needs.

### ***Embracing Fears, Confronting Challenges, and Advancing Growth***

Quach Minh Phat, a student representative of the Class of 2024, expresses his gratitude and thoughts on the spirit of "Fearlessness". At Fulbright, Minh Phat studied Vietnamese Studies with a focus on Political Science. He was the President of the FulPride & Alliance Club and served as the representative student for the Vietnamese Studies major in the Spring semester of the 2023-2024 school year. Elected by the

cohort, Phat's speech reflects the memorable and inspirational journey of the Class of 2024. Phat shares, "Throughout our journey at Fulbright University, we've encountered unprecedented challenges that have strengthened us. The university's innovative support system promotes inclusivity and open-mindedness, allowing students to actively participate, provide feedback, and appreciate diversity. This collaborative spirit extends to faculty and staff efforts in enriching our educational experience with a can-do mindset. Moreover, the caring and supportive nature of our community fosters mutual growth, enhancing our readiness for the future." This embodies the spirit Fulbright continuously strives to uphold.



*Quách Minh Phát shares his views at the “Đông Kinh Nghĩa Thục & Liberal Arts Education Model in Vietnam” Conference.*

### *Equipped for a dynamic future*

Fulbright University Vietnam was established with the mission of nurturing and inspiring new generations of leaders from diverse backgrounds to serve Vietnamese society and contribute to a better world. At Fulbright, our students are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and mindset necessary to create solutions, serve, and innovate, enabling them to thrive in a changing and challenging world. This commitment is clearly demonstrated by the achievements of the second generation of Bachelor's degree — Fulbright's Class of 2024

"In a period marked by significant socio-economic changes and rapid technological development, universities need to prepare students with solid skills and the ability to quickly adapt. The liberal arts education model at Fulbright University Vietnam encourages students to explore diverse interests and contribute to society through personal projects and career choices. We are extremely proud of the Class of 2024 and

the special journey they have embarked on with Fulbright. We look forward to the wonderful experiences they will have and the contributions they will make in the next chapter of their lives," shares Dr. Scott Fritzen, President of Fulbright University Vietnam.

At Fulbright University Vietnam, the graduation ceremony is not merely a conclusion but the commencement of a new journey, aptly named 'Commencement' rather than 'Graduation.' This nomenclature reflects the philosophy imparted by the university's founders and faculty: that graduating from university represents just one of many significant milestones in an individual's maturation. It marks the beginning of a lifelong pursuit of research and education. Fulbright's graduates are imbued with a relentless spirit of discovery, continuously striving to pursue and fulfill their dreams.

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#### **About Fulbright University Việt Nam**

Founded in 2016 on the promise of Vietnamese-American partnership, Fulbright University Việt Nam is Vietnam's first independent, not-for-profit, liberal arts university. Globally integrated but deeply embedded in Vietnamese society, Fulbright is dedicated to providing world-class undergraduate and graduate education. By adapting the latest advancements in institutional design, teaching, learning, technology and other fields, Fulbright endeavors to establish itself as an innovative, globally relevant Vietnamese institution. Fulbright is committed to serving Vietnamese society through rigorous research and civic engagement.

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