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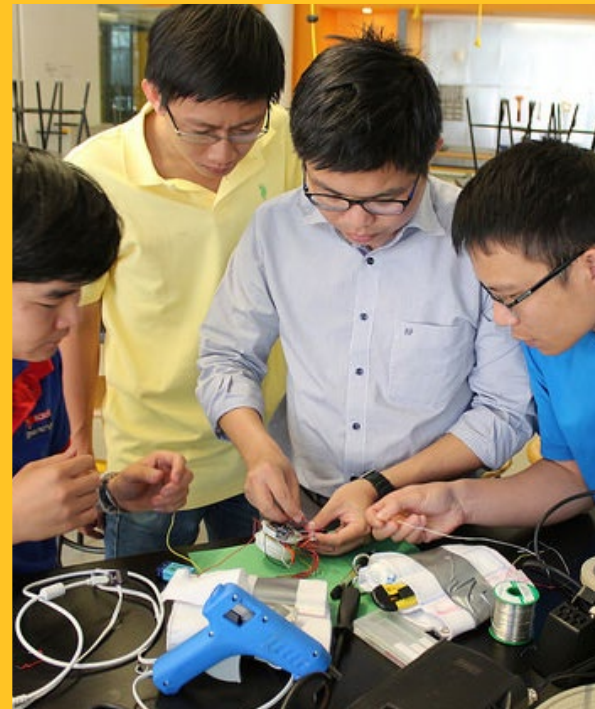


HIGHER ENGINEERING EDUCATION ALLIANCE PROGRAM

JULY 2015 - NEWSLETTER

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HEEAP University Faculty Development Training - April 2015

BY DAVID BENSON



Members of the HEEAP University training that took place May 27- June 6, 2015

During the second quarter of 2015, ASU hosted a HEEAP faculty workshop for 25 Vietnamese University faculty members in Tempe, Ariz. The faculty members learned about different teaching methodologies and techniques for introducing active learning and student-centered activities into their existing courses. Faculty members learned about formative assessment techniques such as Think-Pair-Share and Minute Paper as well as student engagement techniques such as Everyday Examples in Engineering. For each of these approaches, faculty developed examples applied directly to their own courses.

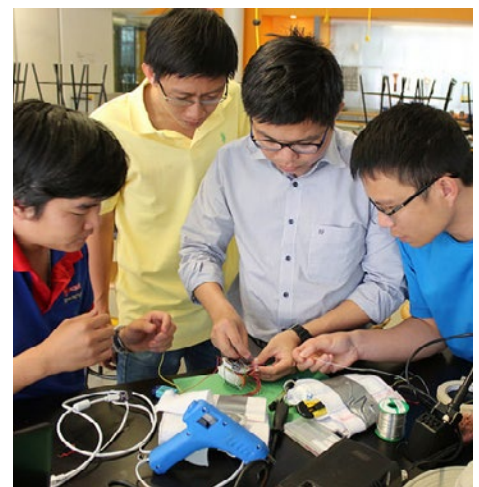
Throughout this workshop, faculty members also learned about various methods for introducing design-thinking into a course. These approaches ranged from creating open-ended components for standard textbook problems to creating significant desktop project experiences which engage students in the subject to large-scale, problem-based learning (PBL) course activities. In order to create a deeper understanding of the

role of design in engineering instruction, faculty participated in a week-long PBL activity where they were tasked to work in teams to design a wearable system for facilitating communication and scheduling during a simulated disaster-relief exercise while using micro-controllers, sensor networks and WI-Fi communication protocols. During this activity the faculty learned first-hand about teamwork principles and roles as well as methods for evaluating and guiding team and individual performance in design projects.

The workshop also had units on learning management systems and on utilizing technology to develop flipped and hybrid classes. Faculty members learned about the instructional benefits of online courses, flipped classes and using LMS to interact with students for grading and instruction. In one activity on instructional technology, faculty scripted and created digital stories with WeVideo to use as entry events to their flipped classes. During the six-week workshop, faculty members also toured the ASU Chandler

Innovation Center, ASU's QESST Engineering Research Center and Human-Centered Robotics laboratory. Faculty members also learned about the various engineering support systems that ASU has developed to support student success, such as career center programs, undergraduate teaching assistant programs and undergraduate student research programs. Faculty members also learned about accreditation practices and developed a series of appropriately leveled course learning outcomes (CLOs) for their target courses.

The workshop concluded with faculty members presenting to their peers the portfolios they had developed over the six weeks which demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of pedagogy. These portfolio presentations also allowed the faculty to illustrate with specific examples how they will implement the many techniques learned during the six weeks. ■



Faculty members learned techniques for introducing active learning activities into their courses

 **click here**
for more pictures of this event

IUH and CTU kick off their LMS implementation projects

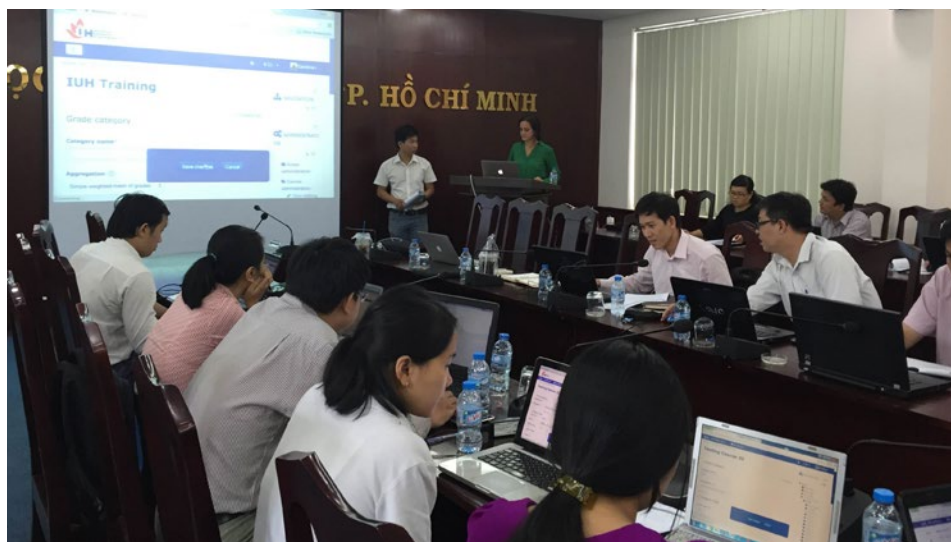
BY OCTAVIO HEREDIA AND PEARSON TEAM

Earlier this year the University of Technology and Education (UTE) inaugurated a new distance learning (DL) classroom equipped with the latest technology in videoconferencing and collaboration software and hardware. This facility will allow UTE to connect with institutions of higher education around the world to create an interactive channel between faculty and students. These type of global interactions are aimed at increasing the competitiveness of UTE graduates by preparing them with crucial skills needed in today's workforce; such as teamwork, problem solving, project planning, presentation skills and English language training. The DL classroom inaugural ceremony was presided by Minister Pham Vu Luan, Ministry of Education and Training (MoET); and by the U.S. Consul General for Ho Chi Minh City, the Honorable Ms. Rena Bitter; as well as other members from UTE and local MoET leadership.

During April, May and June a total of five Moodle technical operations calls were scheduled. Moodle is an open-source learning platform and is currently being implemented by UTE, Can Tho University (CTU) and the Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City (IUH). Technical operations calls serve to maintain online learning momentum and they provide a venue for HEEAP partner universities to communicate challenges and get answers to questions about their respective online learning implementations. Steve Rheinschmidt facilitates technical operations calls and they include individuals with Moodle technical expertise to answer technical questions. During the past quarter, 36 questions were addressed and documented.

In June of 2015, Pearson conducted trainings and operational meetings at UTE, CTU and IUH. At UTE, Pearson trainer Carolina Romano was asked to give a 30-minute speech on digital learning, Moodle, her experience and her perspective on UTE's progress as part of UTE's Digital Learning Workshop. The CTU visit was primarily a discovery meeting and kick off a Moodle implementation analysis and discussion. During the visit, Pearson and ASU reviewed the readiness

assessment document with CTU and discussed the current e-learning state. The team also discussed the current support model which includes training and operation calls for the Moodle environment. The IUH visit was focused on providing a Moodle demo and introduction to a body of lecturers. A total of 16 IUH lecturers were trained in the use of Moodle and content creation to deliver their coursework through the learning management system. ■



Carolina Romano from Pearson travelled to Vietnam to conduct trainings on Moodle implementation strategies with UTE, CTU and IUH



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ASU Honored to Host Vietnamese Rectors

BY NICOLE BARR

Vocational and University Leadership and Innovation Institute (VULII) was pleased to host the rectors, administrators and staff from HEEAP partner institutions for one week at Arizona State University during the month of April. The participants attended professional development meetings led by faculty, staff and leadership from ASU. Topics included online programs, strategic communications, institutional quality assurance and assessment, public/private partnerships, revenue generating facilities and academic enterprise and setting policy.

The participants also attended a half day workshop focused on

collaborative industry partnerships with panelists from Arizona community colleges. Topics included college leadership promoting effective engagement with institutional constituents, implementing the industry partnership model, developing a strong faculty for a quality engineering and technical programs, and exploring sister institutions. Several participants then traveled to Estrella Mountain Community College to tour training facilities supporting industry partnership.

Participants learned about entrepreneurship and innovation curricula and had the opportunity to tour the TechShop facility located in the ASU

Chandler Innovation Center. Several participants had the opportunity travel to the ASU Polytechnic campus and attend Innovation Showcase. Through a program called iProjects, student teams and faculty mentors work closely with industry partners to solve important business challenges. Students then display their inventions at the showcase that is attended by industry, faculty, staff and the community.

VULII would like to thank all those who participated. ■



The Rectors attended meetings led by ASU faculty



Meeting with ASU President Dr. Michael Crow

Intel Galileo Student Competition

BY TRAN THI PHUONG THAO

A student competition named “Racing with Intel Galileo” was held in Cao Thang Technical College under the sponsorship of Intel via HEEAP program from November 2014 to April 2015.

The primary purpose of the competition was to bring students a chance to apply knowledge learned into practice as well as to show their creativity spirit and passion for technology. This opportunity also gave students access to program-based motherboard-embedded Intel Galileo.

There were 24 teams attending the first round with the top six teams making the final round. The winning team proved their understanding and skills in programming by using the given boards to design autonomous toy cars completed the challenging course of racing lines exactly.

The competition was organized by a group of faculty members in the Automation Department and Electronic Engineering, including Ngo Thi Thanh Binh and Nguyen Thanh Phuoc, who attended a HEEAP faculty training in ASU back to 2011. ■



Students prepare for the “Racing with Intel Galileo” competition at CTTC



Judges observing the competition

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One winning team was chosen out of a pool of 24 teams

Top 10 Tips from Ms. Thao: Visiting ASU

BY TRAN THI PHUONG THAO

During the HEEAP faculty development trainings at ASU, in addition to the core value that the program brings to the faculty, there are also many opportunities to experience other aspects that make these trainings more exciting. Here are the top 10 tips from my personal experience while visiting the ASU Tempe Campus in May 2015.

1. Visa

The very first and most important step to attend the training at ASU is obtaining a United States travel visa. A basic advice is to start the process as soon as possible and to be proactive. Since there are many people being interviewed for a U.S. visa on a daily basis at the U.S. Consulate, you should start the process as soon as you receive the appropriate documents from ASU. To do this quickly, arm yourself with information by reading the guidelines from the U.S. Consulate and embassy websites or contact the HEEAP coordinator. If you want to register for a group interview, you can; but keep in mind that deciding on a date when all members can be available could take time. If you cannot agree with your group on a date in a timely fashion, just interview on your own.

2. Luggage

After obtaining a visa, the program coordinator will purchase your airfare tickets and you will be ready to start packing your luggage. Beside carry-on baggage, each person can bring up to two pieces of luggage weighing 23 kilograms each. Usually, faculty will buy many things in the U.S. to bring back to Vietnam; therefore, it is a good idea to just bring the essentials on your US-bound trip so that you have more space for the return flight.

3. Jet lag

This cannot be avoided because the two time zones are reversed. To lessen the negative effects of the time difference, you should try to sleep on the airplane, and while in Arizona, try to wake up at the same time as you normally do, and try to go to bed no earlier than 10:00 pm. If you feel too tired during the first few days, you can take a short nap right after finishing your work day. After a few days, your body will adjust itself.

4. Weather

Arizona has a desert climate which is hot and dry. The temperature in summer is a little higher than it is in Ho Chi Minh City, but because it is less humid, it is more bearable. You don't need to be afraid of sweating while walking under the sun, but you should drink lots of water. Moisturizer cream is also good to keep your skin hydrated; hats and sunglasses also help to protect you from the sun. Even though it is hot during the day, you still need to bring a coat or sweater since the air conditioner can get a little cold inside the classrooms or labs.

5. Food

Food is a cultural aspect. American taste is definitely different from that of Asian in general and Vietnamese in particular. Breakfast is provided by the hotel, but if you don't want the same menu every day, you can alternate the items on the menu. However, it is always good for you to have yogurt and fresh fruit every day, which can provide you with natural vitamins. For lunch and dinner, if you want to try different food or different cultures, there are Chinese restaurants such as Panda Express or P.F. Chang's, American restaurants that

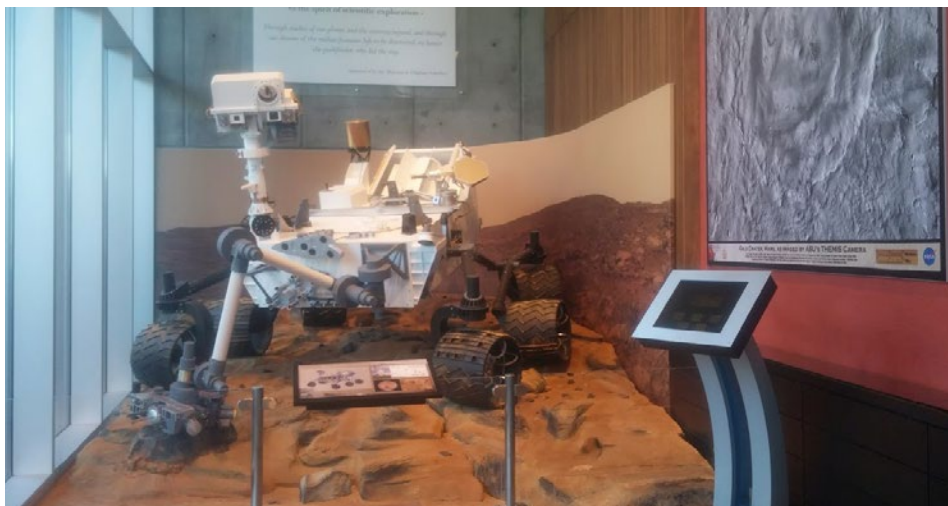


Ms. Thao recommends taking advantage of all that the ASU Tempe campus has to offer

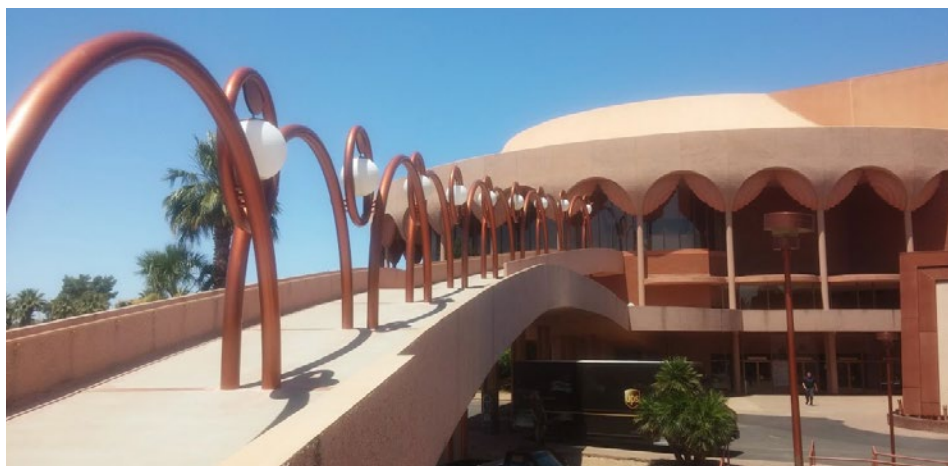
have hamburgers and sandwiches around the campus and along Mill Avenue. It is even better if you can cook because you can go to Mekong Plaza or Target supermarket by bus where you can buy many Vietnamese ingredients to cook ordinary daily meals like phở or spring rolls. However, this is also a good opportunity for you to give new flavors a try like Mexican, Italian or American food.

6. Lodging

Since 2013, all of HEEAP faculty have had the opportunity to stay at the Residence Inn. This is a very comfortable hotel with a fully equipped kitchen where you can cook for yourself; you don't even



[The School of Earth and Space Exploration has an interesting exhibit showcasing the NASA's Mars Exploration Rover](#)



[Gammage Auditorium presents the best of Broadway Musical Theatre, as well as an array of artists from across the globe](#)

need to worry about washing dishes because it also includes a dishwasher. If you want to work out or swim, just go to the 11th floor and enjoy the pool and fitness center with a great view. At night, a fireplace at the rooftop can be a good place for you to sit together with other faculty to relax after a long working day.

7. Local Transportation

The ASU Tempe campus is a very convenient place where you can travel to other sites in Phoenix by a free bus called Orbit, or reasonably priced bus, or light rail at \$4 for a round trip.

8. Leisure travel

You will have to work very hard during

the week, but if you have time during the weekends, you can travel to many places around ASU for shopping, like Target, Mekong Plaza, CVS, or Arizona Mills, among others. For sightseeing, you can go to the neighboring cities like Scottsdale or to a neighboring state like California, with cities like San Diego and Los Angeles. If you don't want to travel far, you can even find many interesting places on campus like Gammage Auditorium, ASU Art Museum, 3-D astronomy show in the School of Earth and Space Exploration, Hayden Library, or visit the School of Life Sciences to see the exhibition of living Arizona lizards and snakes – they are kept in glass cages, don't be afraid!



Ms. Thao with HEEAP faculty Ms. Lan Anh from HUST exploring the ASU campus

9. Walking

ASU Tempe Campus is a big place. Besides walking from your hotel to classrooms or labs, you might want to discover the campus with Hayden library, Gammage Auditorium, the Sun Devil Stadium, museums, or other labs of different schools with modern facilities. In these long walks, high heels can "kill" your feet. Instead, flat shoes or sneakers are better "companions". With comfortable shoes, you can walk to the neighborhood to explore a little more about life around the campus or climb up to the top of A mountain if you want to see ASU from above.

10. Different campuses of ASU

You can also travel to other ASU campuses like Downtown Phoenix, Polytechnic, West or Lake Havasu to see how big this university is.

You will have a lot of time to work and also discover many interesting things when you visit ASU for your training. Make sure you plan ahead to work and enjoy during your stay in Arizona! ■

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HEEAP Organizes Soft Skills Training Workshop at CTU

BY NGUYEN HUU DIEM HUONG

On June 5, HEEAP brought a soft skills training workshop to Can Tho University's School of Engineering. The workshop equipped more than 70 senior engineering students with the necessary knowledge, experience and skills to land a job after graduation.

As a commitment from HEEAP to the School of Engineering leadership, HEEAP funded the soft-skills workshop. Le Van Khoi, HEEAP In-Country Director, served as the

workshop's lead trainer. Khoi has over 10 years of international work experience and served as a professional trainer with Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training (MOET).

Throughout the day, he taught students how to do personal assessments, write professional CVs, plan clear career paths, search for employment, prepare for interviews and shared the skills and qualities required to successfully complete workplace tasks. Students learned

the soft skills associated with teamwork. They learned these skills through a wide range of methodologies, including group activities, exercises, case studies, discussions, presentations, mock interviews, problem solving and sharing. HEEAP and Can Tho University will continue hosting Soft Skills Training Workshops annually. ■



Students participate in a soft skills training workshop at CTU



Students practice their presentation skills

VULII Workshops

BY NGUYEN HUU DIEM HUONG

In May, the VULII team conducted continuous quality improvement workshops in Ho Chi Minh City. The workshops targeted program leaders and focused on student outcome assessment and evaluation. Faculty and quality assurance professionals from Cao Thang Technical College, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Ho Chi Minh City Vocational College of Technology, Can Tho University and Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City

participated in the workshops.

An in-depth review of student outcome performance indicators and performance targets was accomplished. Several schools participated in assessment tool development activities, including rubric development. The workshops concluded with a status check and provided the schools with an opportunity to get answers to questions related to preparing for future ABET accreditation. ■



Ms. Huong greets participants at the HCMC workshops



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